FULL 68 PAGES

AMAZING STORIES

Sinister TALES

APPROVED COMIC

№ 65

1/-

NoMAN FACES HIS GREATEST CHALLENGE WHEN HE BATTLES THE TARANTULA IN 'THE SECRET OF SCORPION ISLAND'

T.H.U.N.D.E.R. AGENT

NoMan

The *SECRET* of SCORPION ISLAND

SINISTER TALES No. 65
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WA-HOOP!
EEYA-HOO!
DOWN WITH THUNDER MEDICINE EVIL!

BLAM
BLAM
HALT!
STOP THIS!

THANK HEAVEN THE AUTHORITIES ARE HERE! I WANT TO SPEAK TO ONE OF THE RIOTERS...

WHAT HAPPEN'? CAN'T REMEMBER! HEAD HURT...
HE SEEMS TO BE UNDER A HYPNOTIC SPELL!

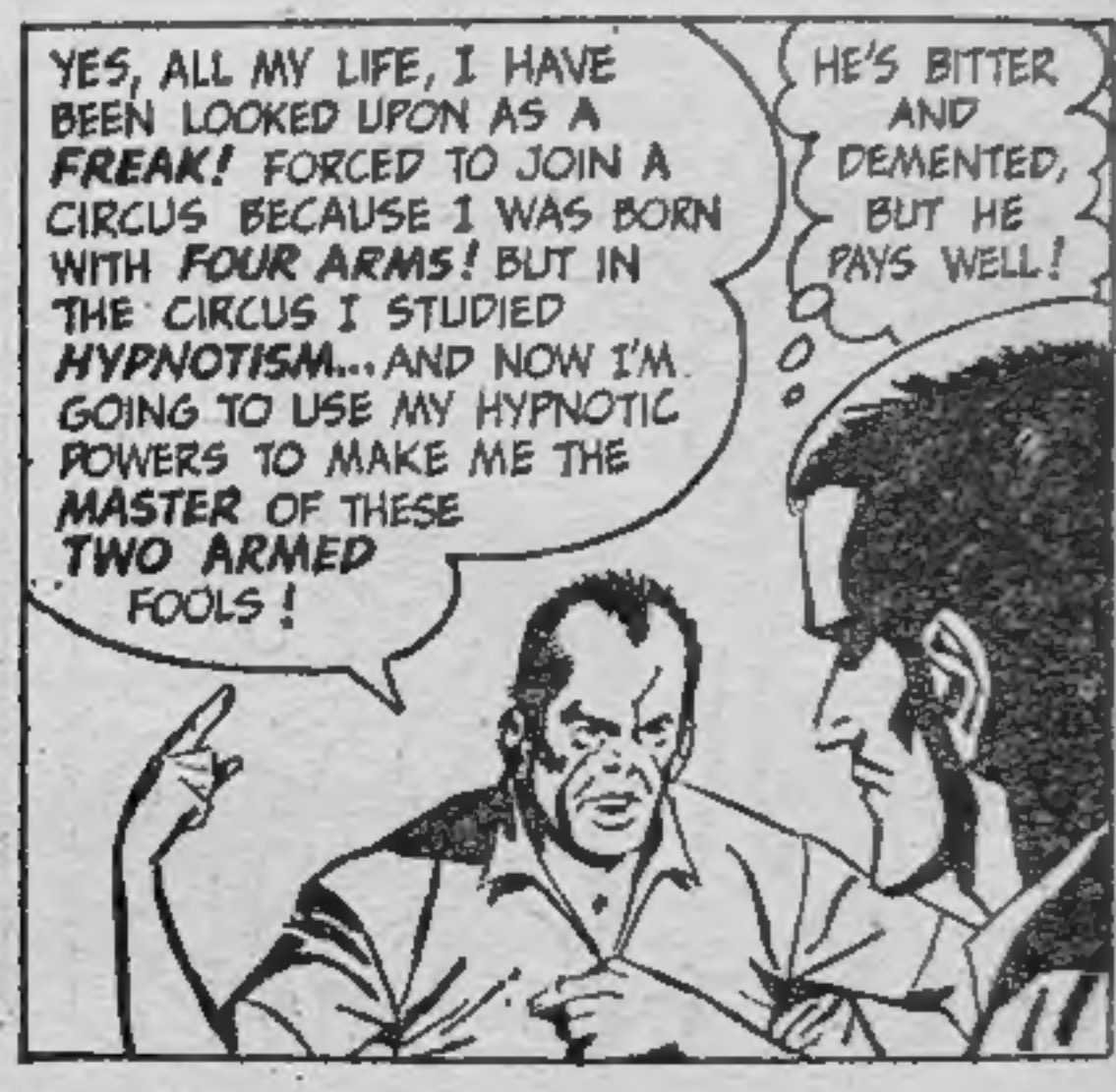
NONE OF THE NATIVES REMEMBER PARTICIPATING IN THAT RIOT!

THAT'S THE THIRD RIOT, IN TWO WEEKS! THREE THUNDER HEALTH PROGRAMS RUINED!
DO YOU KNOW WHO IS HYPNOTIZING THESE NATIVES AND NOW?

NO, NOMAN! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO SCORPION ISLAND, FIND OUT WHO IT IS AND STOP HIM!
LET'S HOPE I DON'T FALL UNDER HIS INFLUENCE... I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THAT CHANCE!

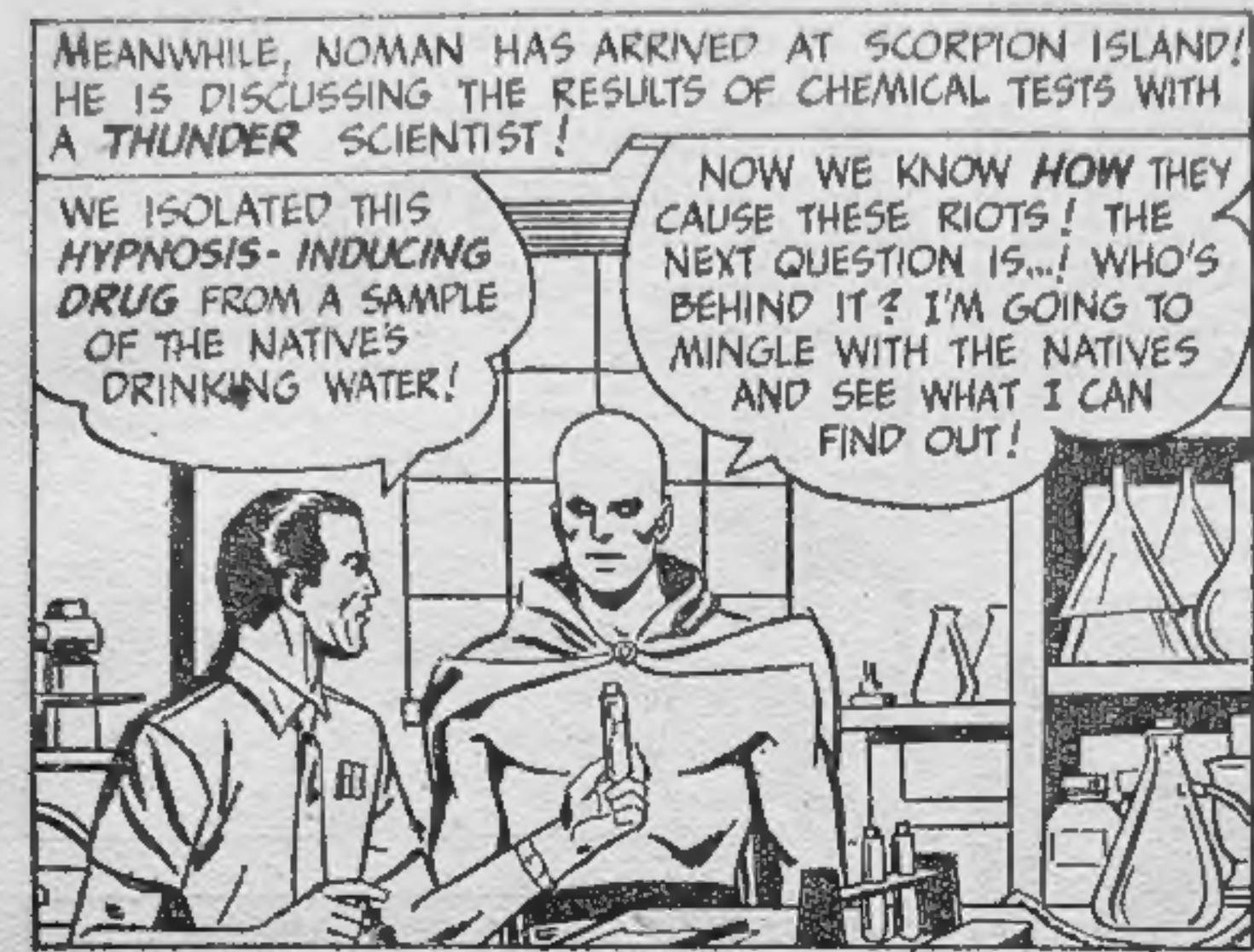
DEEP IN THE JUNGLES OF SCORPION ISLAND IS THE OBJECT OF NOMAN'S SEARCH...CUNNING, DIABOLIC TARANTULA!
EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT! WE'LL NEED MORE OF MY MIND CONTROL DRUG! JUST A FEW DROPS OF THIS DRUG IN THE NATIVES DRINKING WATER MAKES THEM DO ANYTHING I SAY... RIOT...DESTROY THROW THUNDER OFF THIS ISLAND!
WHY DO YOU HATE THUNDER, TARANTULA?

BECAUSE THUNDER STANDS IN MY WAY OF MY BECOMING SUPREME RULER OF SCORPION ISLAND!
SUCH A BURNING DESIRE FOR CONQUEST!


YES, ALL MY LIFE, I HAVE BEEN LOOKED UPON AS A FREAK! FORCED TO JOIN A CIRCUS BECAUSE I WAS BORN WITH FOUR ARMS! BUT IN THE CIRCUS I STUDIED HYPNOTISM...AND NOW I'M GOING TO USE MY HYPNOTIC POWERS TO MAKE ME THE MASTER OF THESE TWO ARMED FOOLS!
HE'S BITTER AND DEMENTED, BUT HE PAYS WELL!

WHENEVER YOU GO INSIDE THE IDOL, AND SPEAK TO THE NATIVES OVER THE PUBLIC AMPLYFYING SYSTEM, YOU ALMOST HAVE ME BELIEVING YOU'RE THEIR GREAT GOD MALU!

IT'S AMAZING HOW THE NATIVES ARE COMPLETELY FOOLED BY THIS HOCUS POCUS!
BETTER REHEARSE YOUR SPEECH FOR TONIGHT'S RITUAL!


MEANWHILE, NOMAN HAS ARRIVED AT SCORPION ISLAND! HE IS DISCUSSING THE RESULTS OF CHEMICAL TESTS WITH A THUNDER SCIENTIST!
WE ISOLATED THIS HYPNOSIS-INDUCING DRUG FROM A SAMPLE OF THE NATIVE'S DRINKING WATER!
NOW WE KNOW HOW THEY CAUSE THESE RIOTS! THE NEXT QUESTION IS...! WHO'S BEHIND IT? I'M GOING TO MINGLE WITH THE NATIVES AND SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT!

WON'T YOU LOOK CONSPICUOUS, NOMAN!
NO! THEY WILL NOT BE AWARE OF MY PRESENCE!

INVISIBLE, NOMAN WALKS AMONG CROWD OF NATIVES...
I'LL STOP THOSE KIDNAPPERS!

GOSH! THEY'RE HYPNOTIZED! ON SECOND THOUGHT I'LL TAG ALONG...MAYBE THEY'LL TAKE ME TO THEIR LEADER!

AH, THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IS HERE AT LAST!
WELL, WELL! JUST IN TIME FOR THE PARTY!

NO! NO! PLEASE, DON'T...
SILENCE! YOU WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF SERVING AS A SACRIFICE TO THE GREAT GOD MALU! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MALU? YOUR SERVANT AWAITS YOUR ANSWER!

GREAT PEOPLE OF SCORPION ISLAND! FOLLOWERS OF MALU...
I WONDER HOW THEY ARE SWINGING THIS STUNT? IT LOOKS AWFULLY CONVINCING!

TARANTULA SPEAKS THE TRUTH! THUNDER IS EVIL! DRIVE THUNDER OFF SCORPION ISLAND... MAKE TARANTULA YOUR SUPREME RULER!
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT! TARANTULA'S OUR MAN!

AND NOW I DEMAND THAT YOU PROVE YOUR LOYALTY TO ME BY SACRIFICING THE LIFE OF THIS GIRL!
EEEEEEEE!

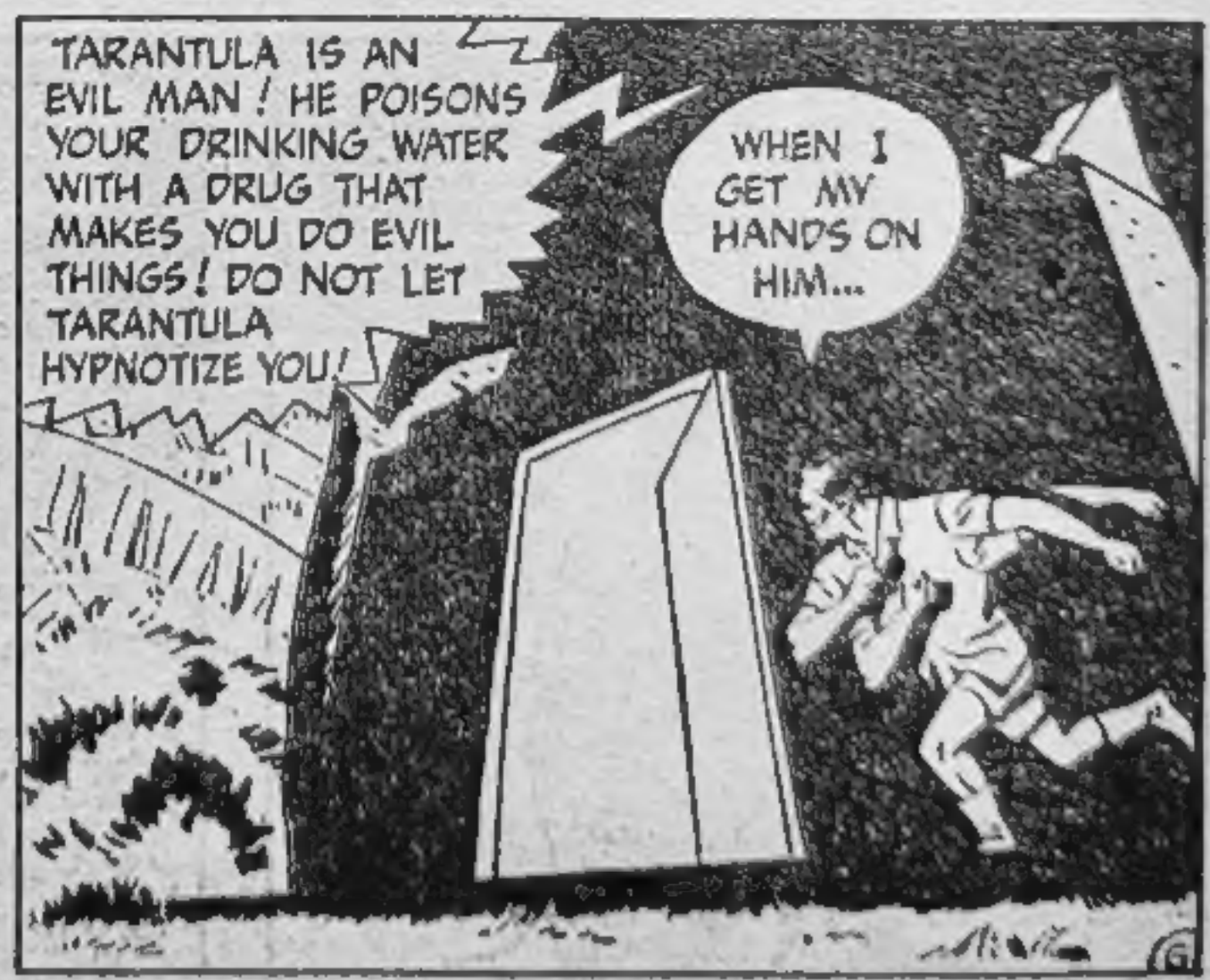
THERE'S PROBABLY A LOUDSPEAKER INSIDE...

AHA! I MUST HAVE TOUCHED A HIDDEN LEVER!

THE DOOR, HOW...?! UHHH!
MALU ISN'T SO MIGHTY AFTER ALL!

NOW! STRIKE FOR MALU!
HALT! DO NOT HARM THIS GIRL! MALU COMMANDS! RELEASE THAT GIRL!

WHAT IS THIS HAS HE GONE MAD!


TARANTULA IS AN EVIL MAN! HE POISONS YOUR DRINKING WATER WITH A DRUG THAT MAKES YOU DO EVIL THINGS! DO NOT LET TARANTULA HYPNOTIZE YOU!
WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON HIM...

IF IT'S NOT HIM, THEN WHO'S...? YEEOW!

OOFF!
THUNDER IS TIRED OF YOUR PHONEY TRICKS!

IN FACT, WE'VE GOT A FEW TRICKS OF OUR OWN!

NOW YOU'RE GOING TO CONFESS THE TRUTH!
CONFESS? HA-HA! LOOK AT THEM!

GREAT SCOTT! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO THEM?
MY MIND CONTROL DRUG! IT'S TAKING EFFECT RIGHT NOW! WITHOUT MY COMMAND THEY'RE HELPLESS!

FROM THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE, I CAN ESTIMATE WHERE HE IS! I'LL JUST JAB HIM WITH THE TINY HYPODERMIC NEEDLE HIDDEN IN MY SECRET RING!

OW!
IN FACT...

...I'VE JUST GIVEN YOU A DOSE OF MY MIND CONTROL DRUG, WITH THIS MINIATURE HYPO! YOU WILL BE UNDER ITS INFLUENCE WITHIN SECONDS! YOU KNOW, THEY ALWAYS SAY, "FOUR HANDS ARE BETTER THAN ONE"! HA, HA!
YOU FIEND! I'LL... OHHH...

NOW BECOME VISIBLE... IF YOU CAN! I COMMAND YOU!

THIS DRUG IS AMAZING! IT CAN MAKE AN "INVISIBLE MAN" VISIBLE!

LISTEN CAREFULLY, MY PEOPLE! AT THE COUNT OF THREE, ONLY YOU, NATIVES OF SCORPION ISLAND, WILL AWAKEN! WE WILL SACRIFICE THIS TRAITOR TO THE GREAT GOD MALU! ONE, TWO, THREE!
OHH...
O LA!
WA-HOO!

GET HIM! PREPARE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE!
GET WHO, EXALTED ONE?

HIM YOU FOOL! ...WHA? HE'S GONE?!

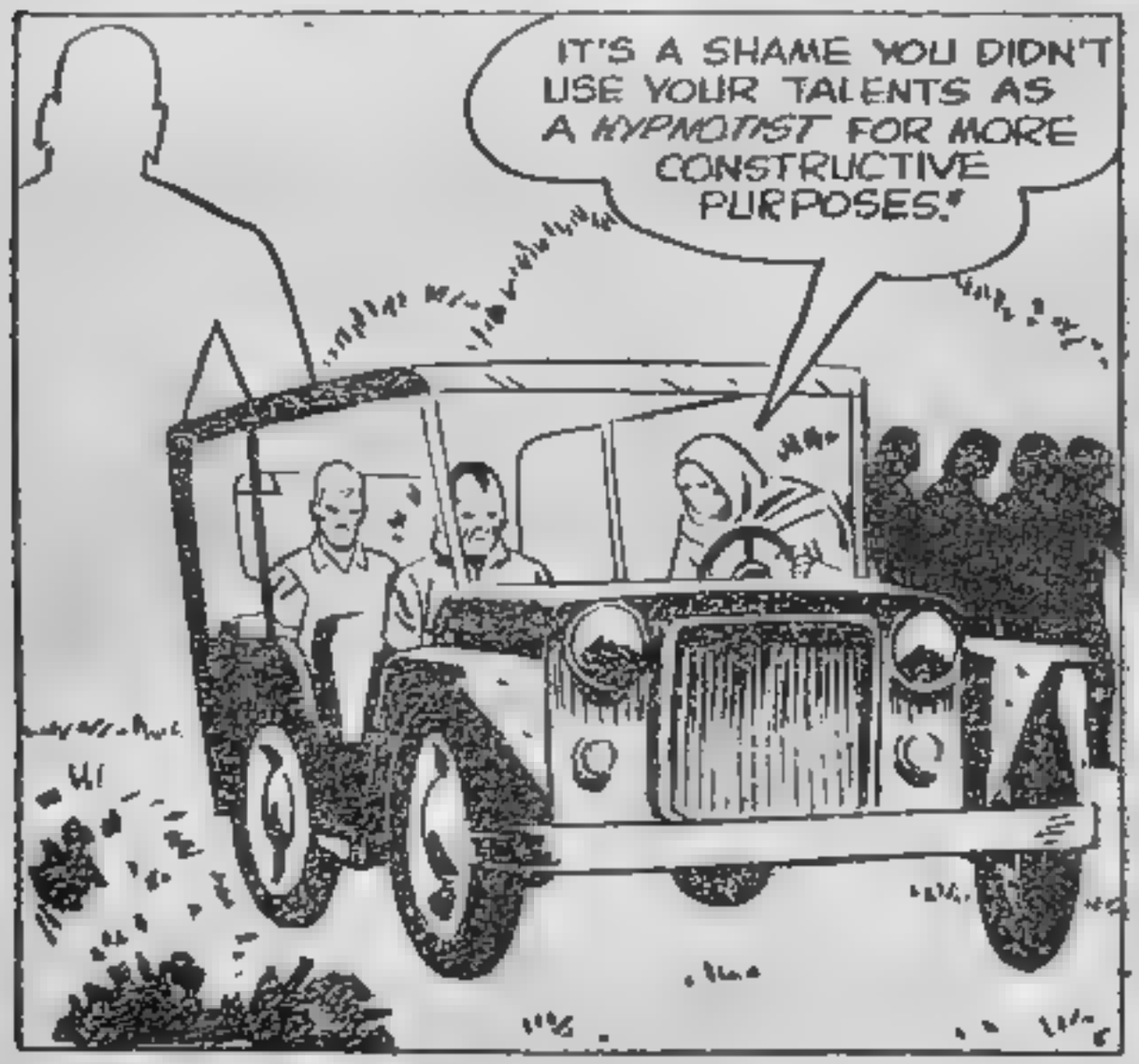
WRONG! I'M HERE!
POW!
GAAA...

I ONLY PRETENDED TO BE AFFECTED BY YOUR DRUG...
MALU, SAVE US! YEOW!
OHHHH!
A DEVIL! A DEMON!

...HOPING THAT YOU WOULD BRING THE NATIVES OUT OF THE HYPNOTIC TRANCE... AND IT WORKED! NOW I WANT THAT CONFESSION FAST!
ALL RIGHT... GULP.. YOU WIN INVISIBLE MAN!

RETURN TO YOUR HOMES.. TO YOUR VILLAGES... I CANNOT BE YOUR LEADER!

I AM AN EVIL MAN.. I HAVE POISONED YOUR LAKES AND STREAMS... I HAVE...
LUCKILY, HIS DRUG HAS NO EFFECT ON MY ANDROID BODY, ALTHOUGH IT OBVIOUSLY WORKS ON REAL HUMANS.

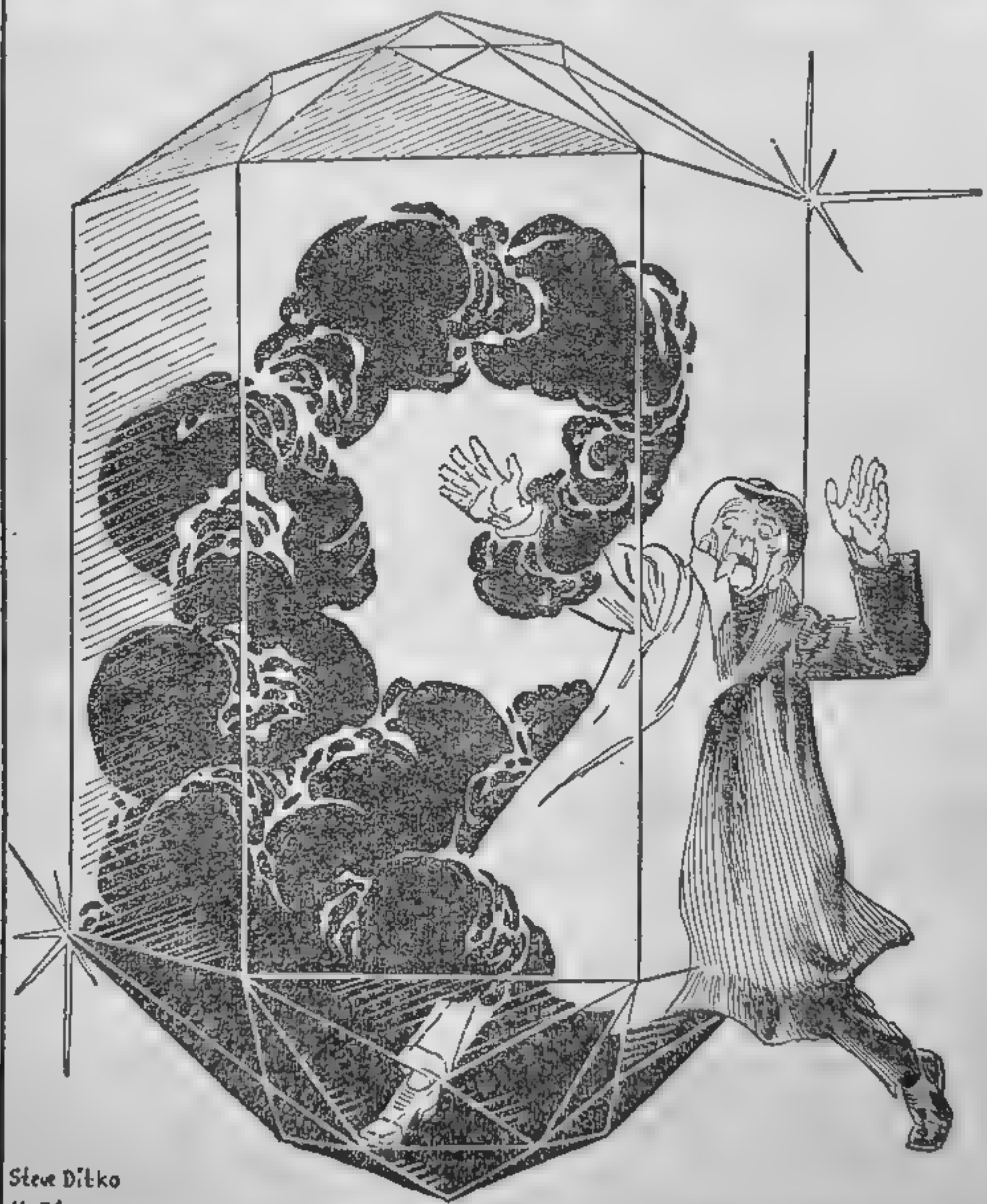

IT'S A SHAME YOU DIDN'T USE YOUR TALENTS AS A *HYPNOTIST* FOR MORE CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSES!

I WANTED *POWER!* TO MAKE PEOPLE PAY FOR LAUGHING AT MY FOUR ARMS.. MY *DEFECT!*

WE ALL HAVE *DEFECTS!* WE MUST TRY TO DO WHATEVER GOOD WE CAN IN SPITE OF THEM!

IF HE ONLY KNEW THAT MY DEFECT IS *HAVING NO REAL BODY!*
THE END

BEWARE! OF THE GHASTLY GLASS!



Steve Ditko
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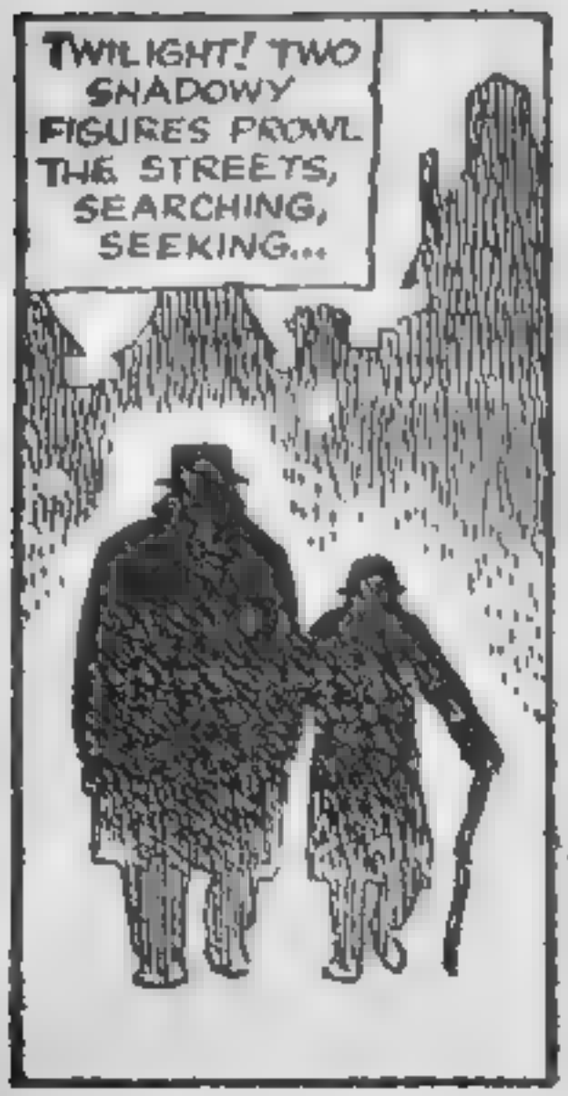

TWILIGHT! TWO SHADOWY FIGURES PROWL THE STREETS, SEARCHING, SEEKING...

FOR COUNTLESS NIGHTS AND DAYS THEY HAVE SEARCHED ...NEVER STOPPING! NEVER STOPPING!
CURIOS

WHERE IS THE BLASTED ATTENDANT? SERVICE!

YES! WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?

I'M LOOKING FOR A PIECE OF CRYSTAL-- LIKE THIS!
MMMMM... NO--I HAVE NONE LIKE THAT!

ARE YOU POSITIVE? PERHAPS STORED AWAY IN YOUR BACK ROOM--??
OWW! TAKE YOUR HAND OFF ME! I SPOKE THE TRUTH!

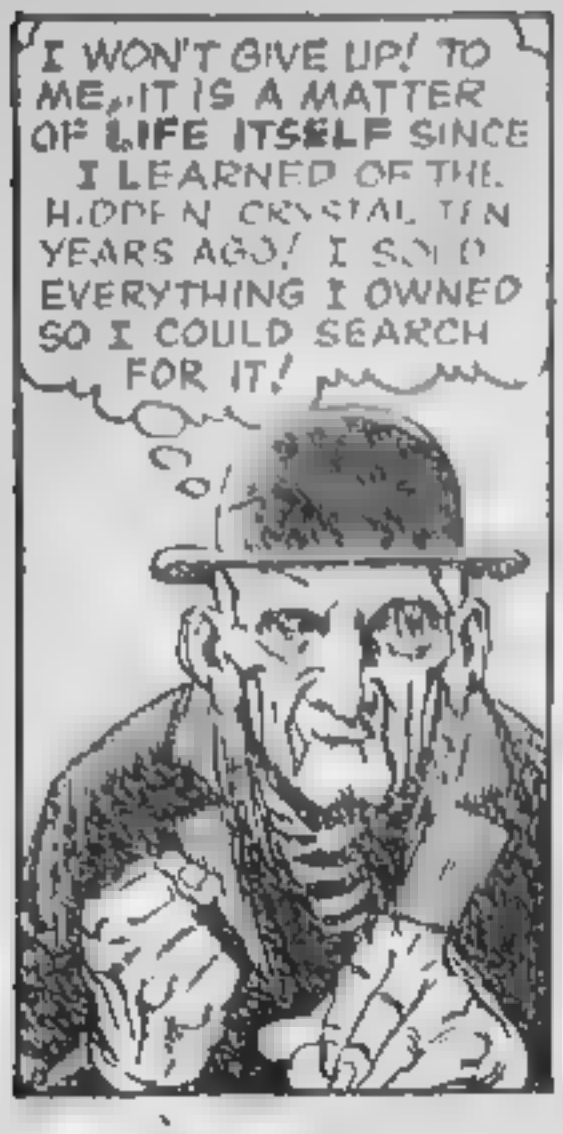
BAH! COME, BRUNO! THE FOOL IS TOO SCARED TO LIE! HE DOES NOT HAVE IT!

WE MUST CONTINUE OUR SEARCH! I MUST FIND THAT PIECE OF GLASS! I MUST!

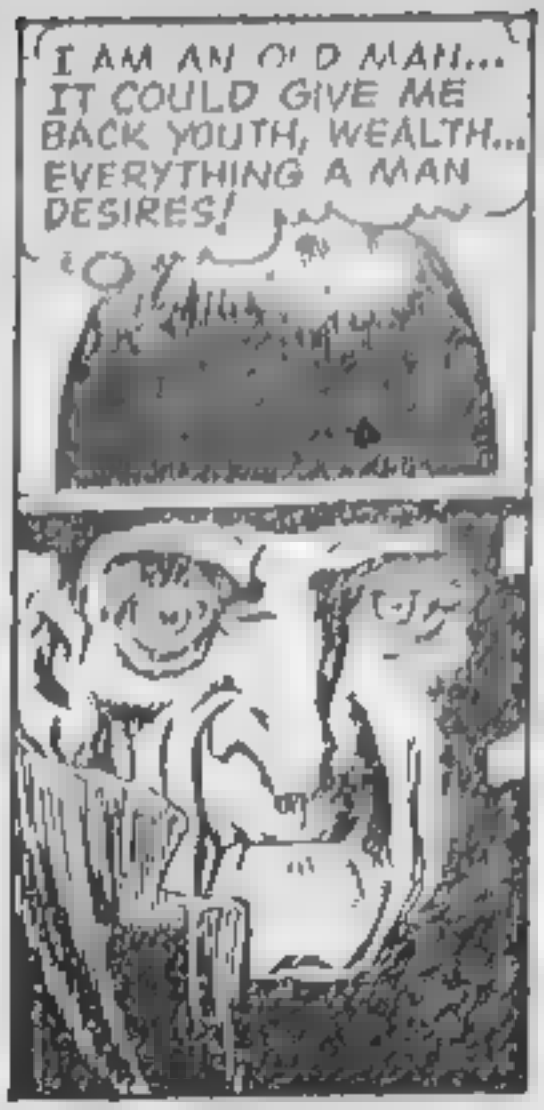
NIGHT AND DAY, WEEK IN AND WEEK OUT, THE STORY IS THE SAME...
NO, M'SIEUR! IT IS THE TRUTH! I KNOW NOTHING OF ANY STRANGE GLASS CRYSTAL!
YOU LIE! YOU MUST KNOW! SOMEONE MUST KNOW ITS WHEREABOUTS!

IN EVERY CURIO SHOP...
MERCY, MEIN HERR! I HAVE NO ANCIENT CRYSTAL YOU SPEAK OF!

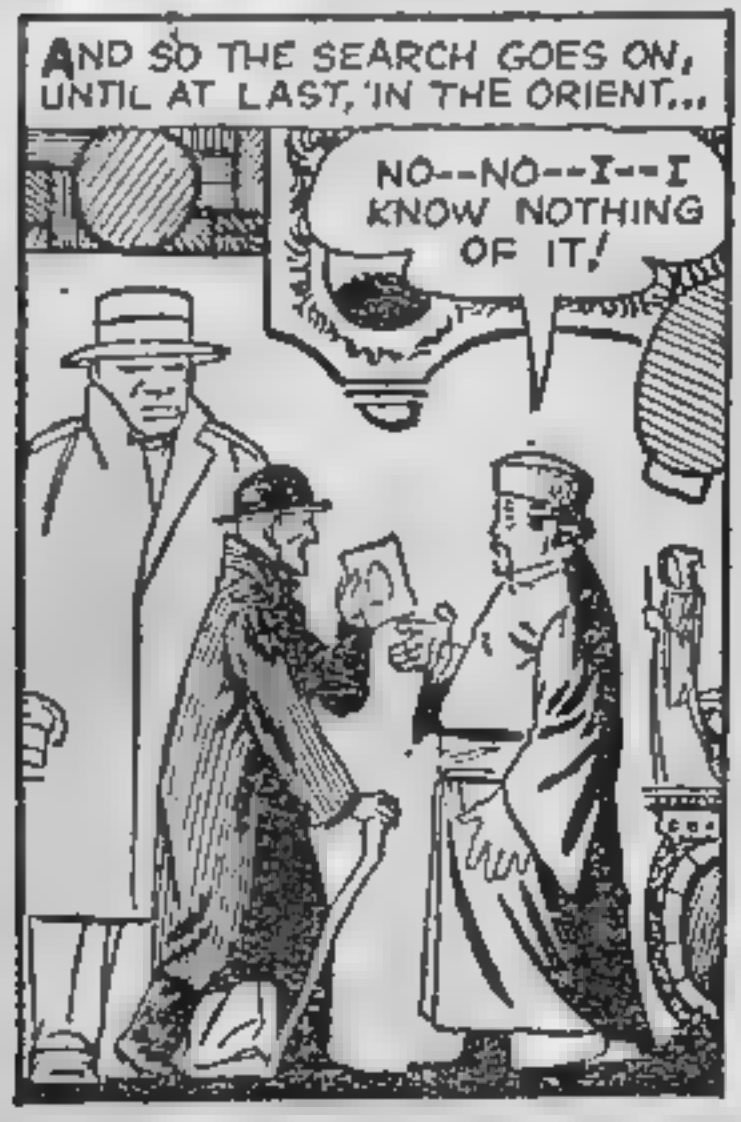
IN EVERY COUNTRY...
TELL ME! WHERE IS THE HIDDEN CRYSTAL?
I AM AN OLD MAN, I DO NOT LIE! I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT YOU SEEK!


I WON'T GIVE UP! TO ME, IT IS A MATTER OF LIFE ITSELF SINCE I LEARNED OF THE HIDDEN CRYSTAL TEN YEARS AGO! I SOLD EVERYTHING I OWNED SO I COULD SEARCH FOR IT!

I KNOW A CURIO DEALER BOUGHT THE CRYSTAL! THE CRYSTAL THAT HAS THE POWER TO GRANT ANYONE WHATEVER HE WISHES!


I AM AN OLD MAN... IT COULD GIVE ME BACK YOUTH, WEALTH... EVERYTHING A MAN DESIRES!

I MUST FIND THE CRYSTAL! NO MATTER WHO STANDS IN MY WAY, I WILL FIND IT! NO MATTER WHO I HAVE TO DESTROY!


AND SO THE SEARCH GOES ON, UNTIL AT LAST, IN THE ORIENT...
NO--NO--I--I KNOW NOTHING OF IT!

YOU LIE! I HAVE SEEN TOO MANY HONEST REACTIONS TO BE DECEIVED! YOU HAVE THE WISHING GLASS!
NO! NO! GO AWAY! LEAVE ME BE!

VERY WELL, I HAVE MEANS TO MAKE YOU TALK! BRUNO!!
NO! PLEASE, I BEG YOU!

KEEP WRECKING EVERYTHING IN THE SHOP TILL HE TALKS!
STOP!! YOU WILL RUIN ME! STOP!

HE'S TRYING TO RUN AWAY WITH SOMETHING! IT'S THE WISHING CRYSTAL!
STOP!!

FOOL! AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS OF SEARCHING, I'LL NOT BE DENIED--NO MATTER WHAT I HAVE TO DO!
BANG!

I WARN YOU! THE WISHING CRYSTAL IS ACCURSED! IT GRANTS THE WISHES BUT THEY TURN AGAINST WHOEVER MAKES THEM! ...OOH!

BAH! HE'S NOT HURT! JUST PASSED OUT FROM SHOCK!
I'VE GOT IT! AT LAST IT'S MINE! AT LAST!

THE CRYSTAL WILL GRANT ME FOUR WISHES -- FOUR WISHES WHICH WILL MAKE ME THE MOST POWERFUL MAN ON EARTH!

I'VE HAD ALL THESE YEARS TO THINK OF WHAT TO WISH FOR... TO THINK OF WISHES WHICH CAN'T POSSIBLY COME BACK TO HARM ME!

FIRST-- I WISH TO BE ONLY TWENTY YEARS OLD!

NEXT, I WISH FOR A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE!

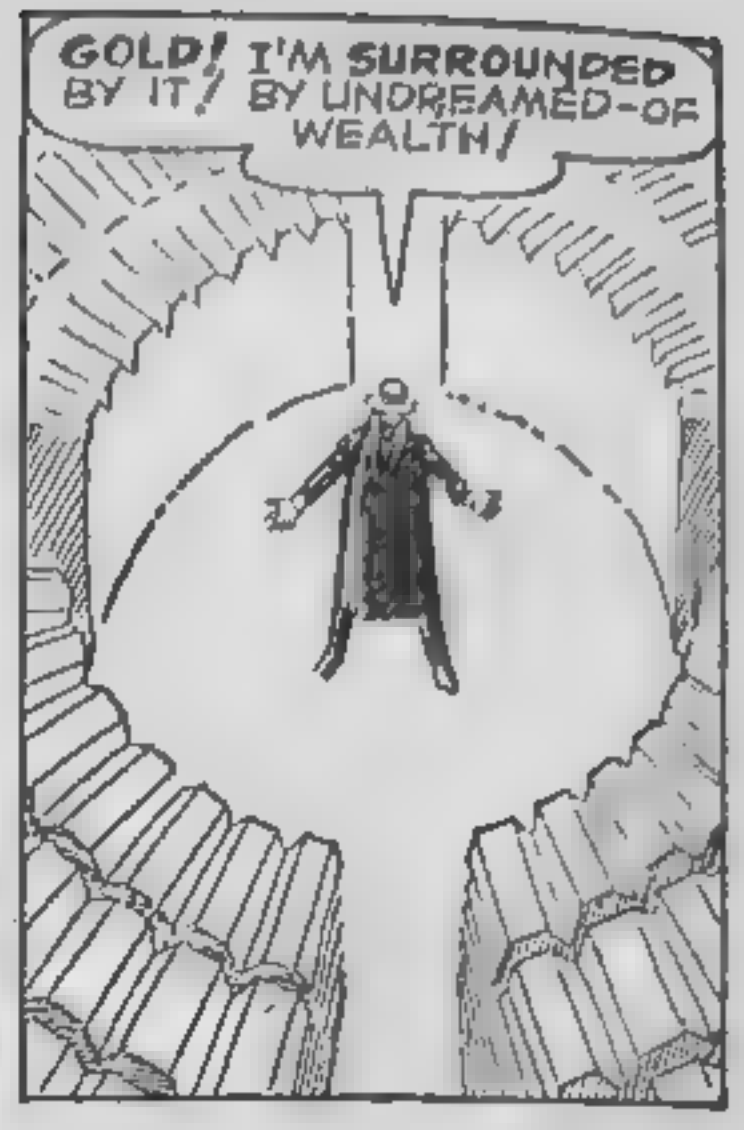
THIRD, I WISH FOR FREEDOM FROM ARREST, JAILS, PRISONS AND INSTITUTIONS!!

AND LAST-- I WISH TO BE THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

HA! HA! HA! HOW COULD ANYONE REGRET HAVING THOSE FOUR WISHES COME TRUE!

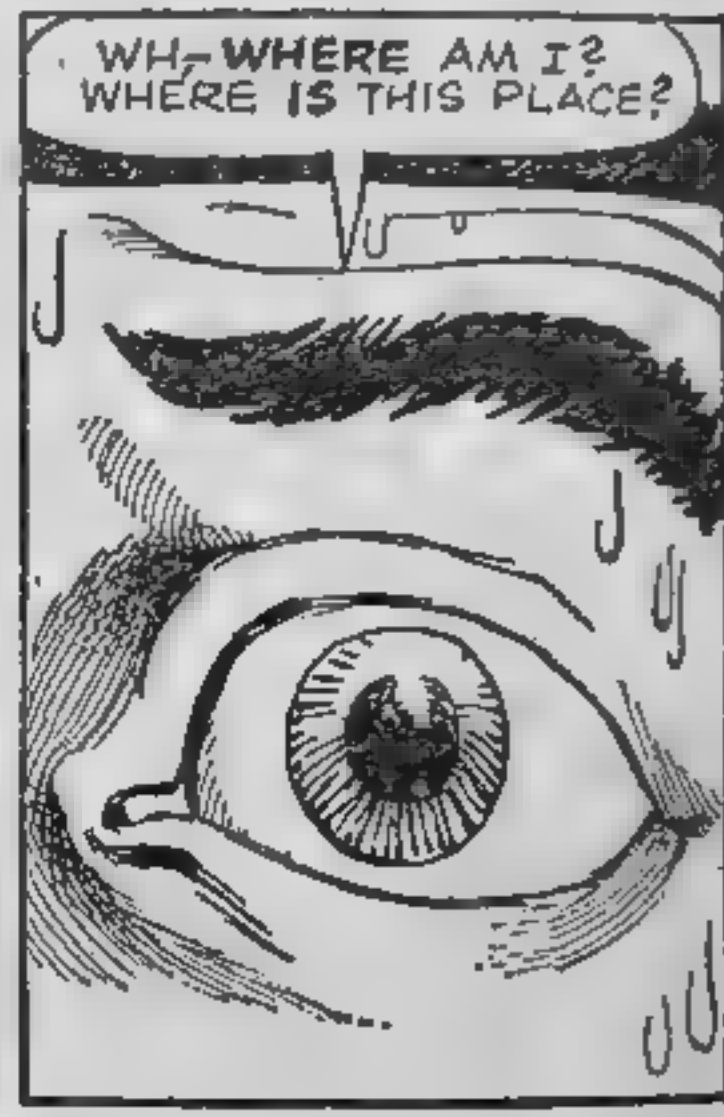
I-I FEEL DIFFERENT-- STRONGER!

I-I'M YOUNG AGAIN! MY WISHES ARE ALL COMING TRUE!


GOLD! I'M SURROUNDED BY IT! BY UNDREAMED-OF WEALTH!

AND THAT FOOL WAS AFRAID TO USE THE CRYSTAL HIMSELF BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THE WISHES WOULD TURN AGAINST HIM! HA, THE TIMID WEAKLING!!

NOTHING CAN HARM ME NOW!! NOTHING CAN-- WAIT!! WHAT IS THIS??


WH-WHERE AM I? WHERE IS THIS PLACE?

"THE WISHING CRYSTAL IS ACCURSED! IT GRANTS THE WISHES BUT THEY TURN AGAINST WHOEVER MAKES THEM!"
I-I OUTSMARTED MYSELF!! I THOUGHT I HAD FOUR WISHES THAT COULDN'T HARM ME, BUT I WAS WRONG!!
I WISHED TO BE THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD-- BUT I DIDN'T SAY... WHICH WORLD!!
THE END

I FOUND THE NIGHTMARE NOTE

I'VE PUT A LOT OF LONG HOURS INTO THIS SCHEME!... BUT IF IT WORKS--IF I FIND THE RIGHT FREQUENCY NOTE, IT'LL BE WORTH IT! I'LL MAKE MORE DOUGH WITH IT THAN I COULD EVER MAKE WORKING IN THIS CRUMMY STORE!
HUMMMMMM

HUMMMMM
IT WAS EASY TO FIND THE PITCHED TONE TO MAKE A GLASS QUIVER.

...AND FINALLY BREAK!
HUMMM
MM

AND IT SHOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE I FIND THE NOTE TO MAKE A MAN LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS! I KNOW THE NOTE EXISTS... AND I'LL FIND IT SOONER OR LATER!
HUMM

...IF ONLY I COULD REPRODUCE ALL THE INTERMEDIATE SOUNDS OF THE FREQUENCY RANGE...
HUMMMM

THEN, IT SUDDENLY STARTED TO HAPPEN...
WAIT A MINUTE... I'M GETTING A PITCH THAT I NEVER HAD BEFORE! THE VIBRATIONS ARE UP TO 680!--THIS MAY BE THE NOTE I WANT!

IT'S WORKING! THE NOTE IS AFFECTING TABBY'S NERVE CELLS! SHE'S SHAKING LIKE THAT GLASS!
HUMMMMMM

TABBY'S LOST CONSCIOUSNESS! THE SOUND KNOCKED HER OUT!--AND IT WOULD'VE HAPPENED TO ME, TOO, IF I WEREN'T WEARING THESE EARPHONES! AT LAST I'VE FOUND THE RIGHT NOTE! NOW, THERE'LL BE NO STOPPING ME! ...I'M GONNA BE ABLE TO COMMIT THE PERFECT CRIME!

I REVIVED THE CAT...AND THEN STARTED TO PUT THE SECOND PART OF MY SCHEME INTO OPERATION! I GROOVED A RECORD--AND INCORPORATED INTO IT THE NOTE I HAD JUST FOUND!--THE SOUND THAT WOULD CAUSE ANY LIVING THING TO BLACK OUT!
ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS GIVE THIS RECORD TO THE RIGHT GUY! IT'LL BE A LEAD PIPE CINCH!
NUM
MMMMM

A COUPLE OF DAYS PASSED, UNTIL I FOUND A SUITABLE VICTIM...
DO YOU HAVE A RECORD OF HANDEL'S HARPSICHORD CONCERTO?
YES SIR! WE CARRY THAT!
GOOD! I'LL TAKE A COPY! AND WOULD YOU DELIVER IT TO MY HOME?
YES SIR--IF YOU'LL GIVE ME YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS!

I'M SPENCER WORTHINGTON! AND MY HOME IS AT 226 MULBERRY DRIVE!
THE RICHEST GUY IN TOWN!... JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN HOPING FOR!
THE RECORD WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOU TONIGHT! AND DURING THIS WEEK, WITH EACH PURCHASE, WE'RE GIVING AN EXTRA FREE RECORD THAT DEMONSTRATES THE LATEST ADVANCE IN HI-FI, STEREOPHONIC SOUND! WE'LL SEND THAT ALONG, TOO!
FINE!... THANK YOU!

YEAH, SUCKER...YOU'LL GET AN EXTRA RECORD, ALL RIGHT! ONLY IT'LL BE A RECORD THAT'LL MAKE YOU UNCONSCIOUS! ...WHILE I SNEAK IN AND ROB YA!

THAT NIGHT, I WAS HIDING OUTSIDE THE HOME OF SPENCER WORTHINGTON, WHEN THE RECORDS WERE DELIVERED TO HIM!
THIS IS IT! I'VE JUST GOT TO WAIT TILL HE PLAYS THE RECORD!

WORTHINGTON UNWRAPPED THE PACKAGE AND...

I'LL PUT ON ONE OF THE RECORDS! MARTHA WILL ENJOY IT WHEN SHE GETS HOME!

HE'S GONNA PLAY THE RECORDS--AND HE'S PUTTING *MINE* ON FIRST! HA! HA! AS SOON AS HE HEARS THE NEW NOTE, HE'LL BE UNCONSCIOUS LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO ACT!

BUT TO MY ASTONISHMENT, IT DIDN'T WORK OUT THAT WAY! WORTHINGTON SAT COMFORTABLY AND LISTENED TO THE RECORD--AND IT HAD *NO EFFECT* ON HIM!

HE'S LISTENED TO ALMOST THE WHOLE RECORD... STILL CONSCIOUS! WHAT--WHAT WENT WRONG?

I GUESS THAT NOTE DOESN'T WORK ON HUMANS--JUST ON LOWER LIFE FORMS! I GUESS YOU CAN'T MAKE A HUMAN BEING UNCONSCIOUS BY MEANS OF SOUND!

ALL MY WORKING AND SCHEMING THESE PAST MONTHS--IT WAS FOR NOTHING! BUT I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON! FROM NOW ON, I'LL STICK TO *HONEST* MEANS OF MAKING DOUGH! WHEN YOU WORK HARD THAT WAY, AT LEAST YOU *GET* SOMETHING FOR IT!

AND FOR JOE, THE STORY OF THE *NIGHTMARE NOTE* ENDS THERE! BUT LET *US* STAY AWHILE LONGER IN THE HOME OF SPENCER WORTHINGTON...

THIS RECORD IS FINISHED! I'LL JUST REMOVE IT AND PUT ON HANDEL'S HARPSICHORD CONCERTO!

BUT WHEN HE TAKES OFF JOE'S RECORD, WORTHINGTON ACCIDENTALLY DROPS IT! IT FALLS AND SHATTERS INTO COUNTLESS FRAGMENTS!

BROKEN! WHAT A SHAME! I *KNOW* MARTHA WOULD HAVE ENJOYED IT! THAT'S WHY I WAS PLAYING IT... SO SHE'D WALK IN AND BE SURPRISED!

MARTHA HAS *SUCH* A FINE EAR FOR MUSIC--FOR *ALL* SOUNDS! WHEN I SEE *HER* ENJOYING MUSIC, *I* ENJOY IT, TOO... EVEN THOUGH *I AM DEAF!*

OH, IF ONLY I HADN'T DONE IT! IF ONLY I HADN'T BEEN SUCH A SUSPICIOUS, GREEDY FOOL! WHY DIDN'T I LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE?! NOW, IT'S TOO LATE! EVERYTHING'S LOST! ALL THAT I HAD ACCUMULATED FROM YEARS OF SCRIMPING AND SAVING--IT'S ALL GONE! AND JUST BECAUSE...

I FOUND THE PERFECT HIDING PLACE IN SPACE!

MY NAME IS ZACHARIAH STUBBS! FOR YEARS PEOPLE HAD BEEN WHISPERING ABOUT MY ***SAVING*** MONEY! THEY CALLED ME A GREEDY OLD ***MISER!*** A NIGGARDLY OLD SKINFLINT! BUT I DIDN'T CARE--I'D BEEN SAVING MONEY EVER SINCE THE YEAR 2773 WHEN I WAS ONLY 14, AND I ***ENJOYED*** IT! I LOVED LOOKING AT IT AND HOLDING IT AND LETTING IT FILTER THROUGH MY FINGERS...

HEH! HEH! THERE'S NOTHIN' LIKE THE FEEL OF MONEY TO EXHILERATE A PERSON! OTHER FOOLS CAN WASTE THEIR TIME ON ALL SORTS OF ENTERTAINMENT AND DIVERSION, BUT NOT ME... FOR ME, THERE'S NOTHING AS IMPORTANT AS SAVING MONEY... AND NOTHIN'S AS ENJOYABLE AS HAVING MONEY!

T-212

THE ONLY THING WHICH BOTHERED ME WAS THAT MY MONEY WASN'T SAFE ENOUGH IN MY HOME--THERE WAS ALWAYS THE CHANCE OF BEING ***ROBBED!*** AND I DIDN'T WANTA PUT MY MONEY IN A BANK 'CAUSE ***I DIDN'T TRUST*** THEM! THEN, ONE DAY...

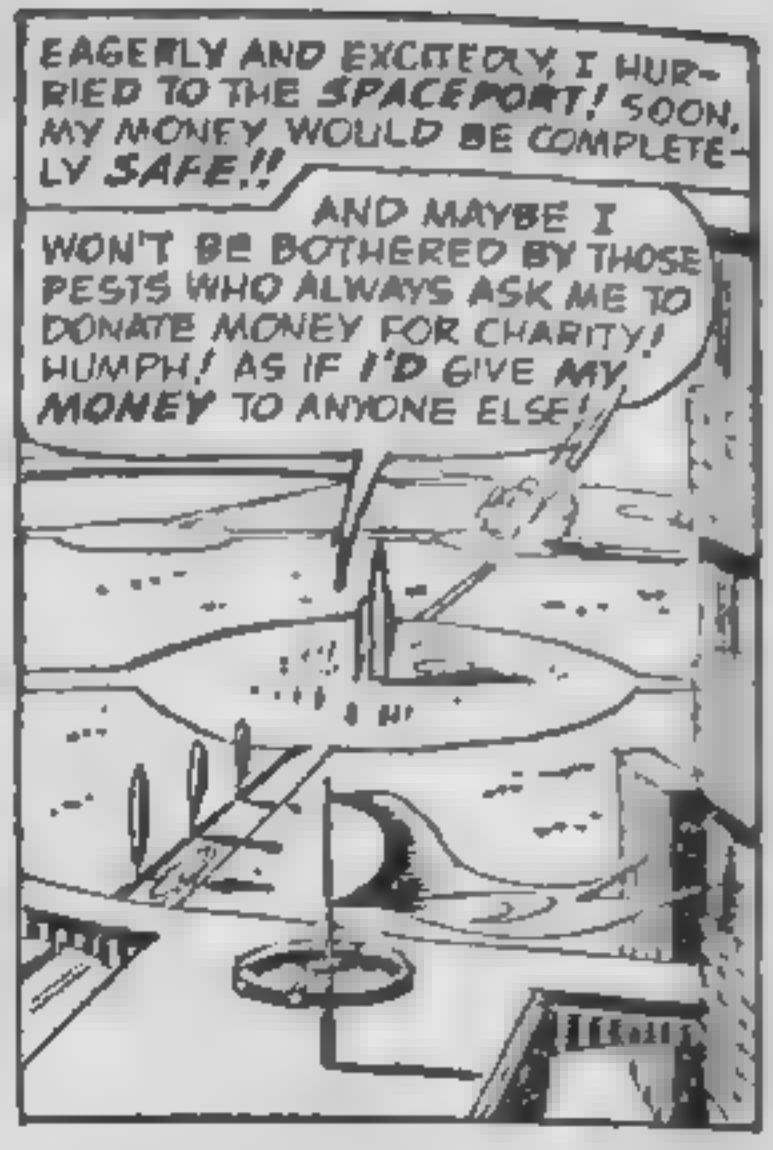
THINK I'LL TURN ON THE NEWS-IMAGER! SEE HOW THE STOCK MARKET DID, TODAY!

AND TODAY, AUTOMATIC SPACE SHIPS WERE PUT INTO OPERATION! THESE SPACE SHIPS ARE CAPABLE OF INTERSTELLAR SPACE TRAVEL!

WHY--THAT'S JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN ***HOPING*** FOR!

I GOT A FEW NECESSARY THINGS AND THEN I GATHERED UP MY MONEY... MY PRECIOUS MONEY!
KEEPIN' MY MONEY AT HOME IS NO GOOD 'CAUSE I COULD BE ROBBED ANY TIME! AND I WOULDN'T TRUST MY MONEY TO SOME STRANGE BANK! BUT WITH AN AUTOMATIC SPACE SHIP--A SHIP WITHOUT A NOSEY PILOT SNOOPIN' AROUND...

I COULD FLY TO SOME DISTANT ASTEROID AND HIDE MY MONEY WHERE NO ONE ELSE COULD EVER FIND IT!
HEY, THERE GOES OLD MAN STUBBS!
I NEVER KNEW THE OLD MISER COULD MOVE SO FAST!


EAGERLY AND EXCITEDLY, I HURRIED TO THE SPACEPORT! SOON, MY MONEY WOULD BE COMPLETELY SAFE!!
AND MAYBE I WON'T BE BOTHERED BY THOSE PESTS WHO ALWAYS ASK ME TO DONATE MONEY FOR CHARITY! HUMPH! AS IF I'D GIVE MY MONEY TO ANYONE ELSE!

GRUDGINGLY, I PAYED THE REQUIRED FEE FOR THE USE OF THE AUTOMATIC SPACE SHIP--AND WITHIN MINUTES, I BLASTED OFF!!
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO START BURYING MY MONEY!

THE TAKE-OFF WAS SMOOTH! THEN, ON THE ADVICE OF THE SPACELINE'S CLERK, I SETTLED BACK AND WENT TO SLEEP! IT WOULD BE A STRENUOUS FLIGHT AND I'D TAKE IT MORE EASILY AND WITH LESS CHANCE OF UNPLEASANT PHYSICAL EFFECTS IF I WERE ASLEEP!

IT WAS SEVERAL HOURS LATER WHEN I AWAKENED...
BOY, I HAD A GOOD SLEEP! WONDER WHERE I AM -- HOW FAR I'VE GONE!!

HEY! I'VE ALREADY ARRIVED ON SOME ASTEROID!! GOOD! I'LL GET OUTTA HERE AND START LOOKIN' FOR A SPOT TO BURY MY MONEY! SOON, I'LL NEVER HAVE TO SHARE IT WITH A LIVING SOUL!
B2

WOW! WHAT A WONDERFUL PLACE TO HIDE A FORTUNE! HA HA! THIS IS BETTER THAN ANY BANK ON EARTH!

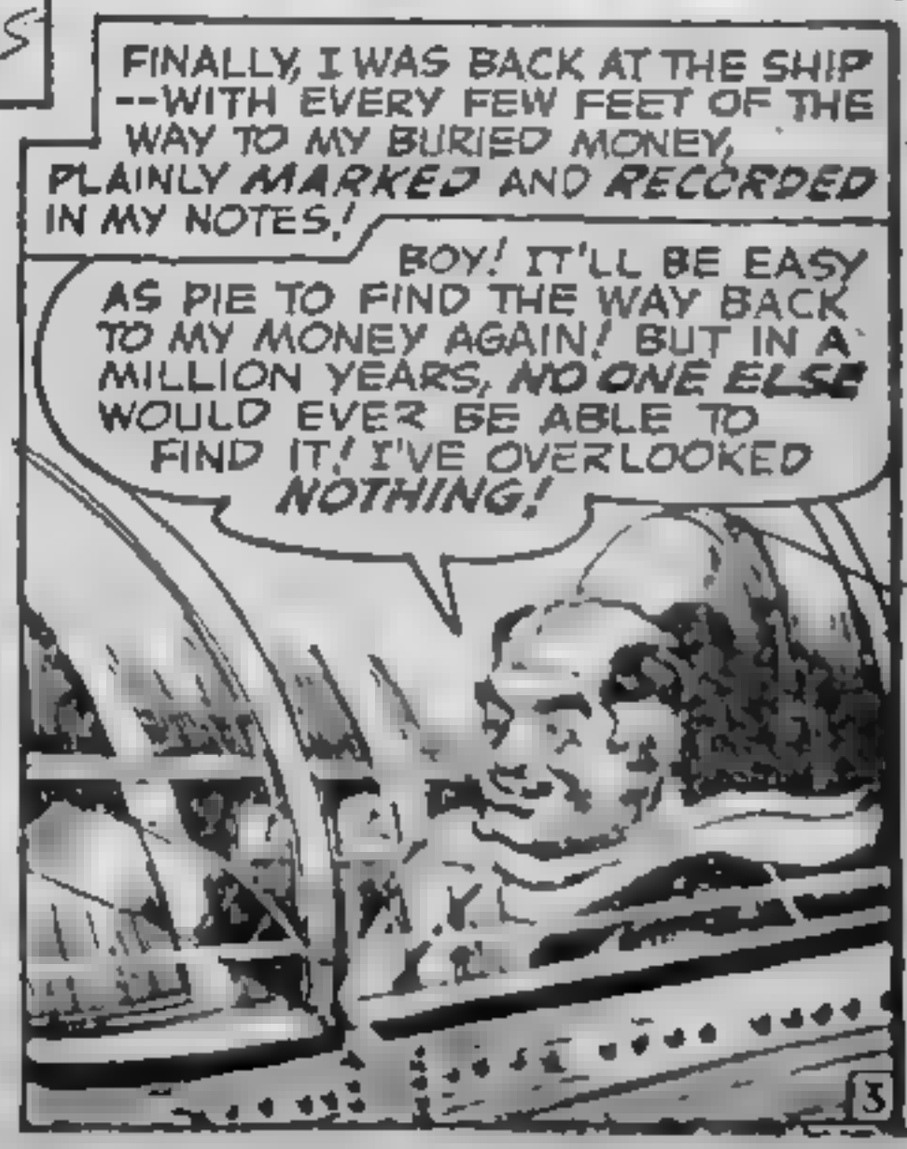
LADEN WITH MY SAVINGS OF MANY YEARS, I SET OUT TO FIND A SUITABLE PLACE TO BURY IT ALL...
LET'S SEE NOW... I'LL JUST FOLLOW THE NATURAL PATH, AWHILE!

ABOUT AN HOUR LATER, I CAME UPON THE PERFECT LOCATION!
BY THIS LARGE, WEIRD HUNK OF VEGETATION-- THIS IS JUST THE SPOT I WANT!

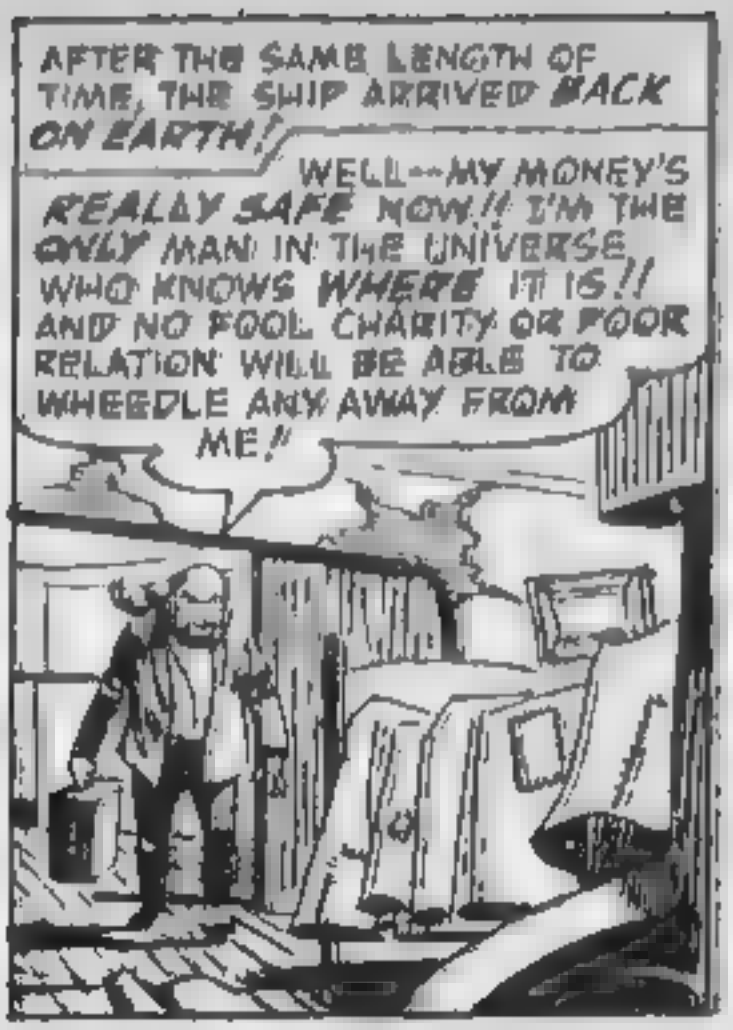
WITHIN A HALF HOUR MY MONEY WAS SAFELY BURIED! THEN I SET ABOUT LEAVING A TRAIL WHICH WOULD BE SECRET TO ANYONE BUT ME, AS I MADE MY WAY BACK TO THE SHIP...
I'LL JUST ARRANGE THESE ROCKS IN A PATTERN THAT ONLY I WILL RECOGNIZE!

WITH THIS DYE MARK ON IT, I'LL BE ABLE TO FIND THIS ROCK ANY TIME!

THIS STREAM WILL SERVE AS A GOOD MARKER!
ROCK PAST OF CLUMP
IS PAST EAST
STOP JUST PAST NEXT ROCK STREAM

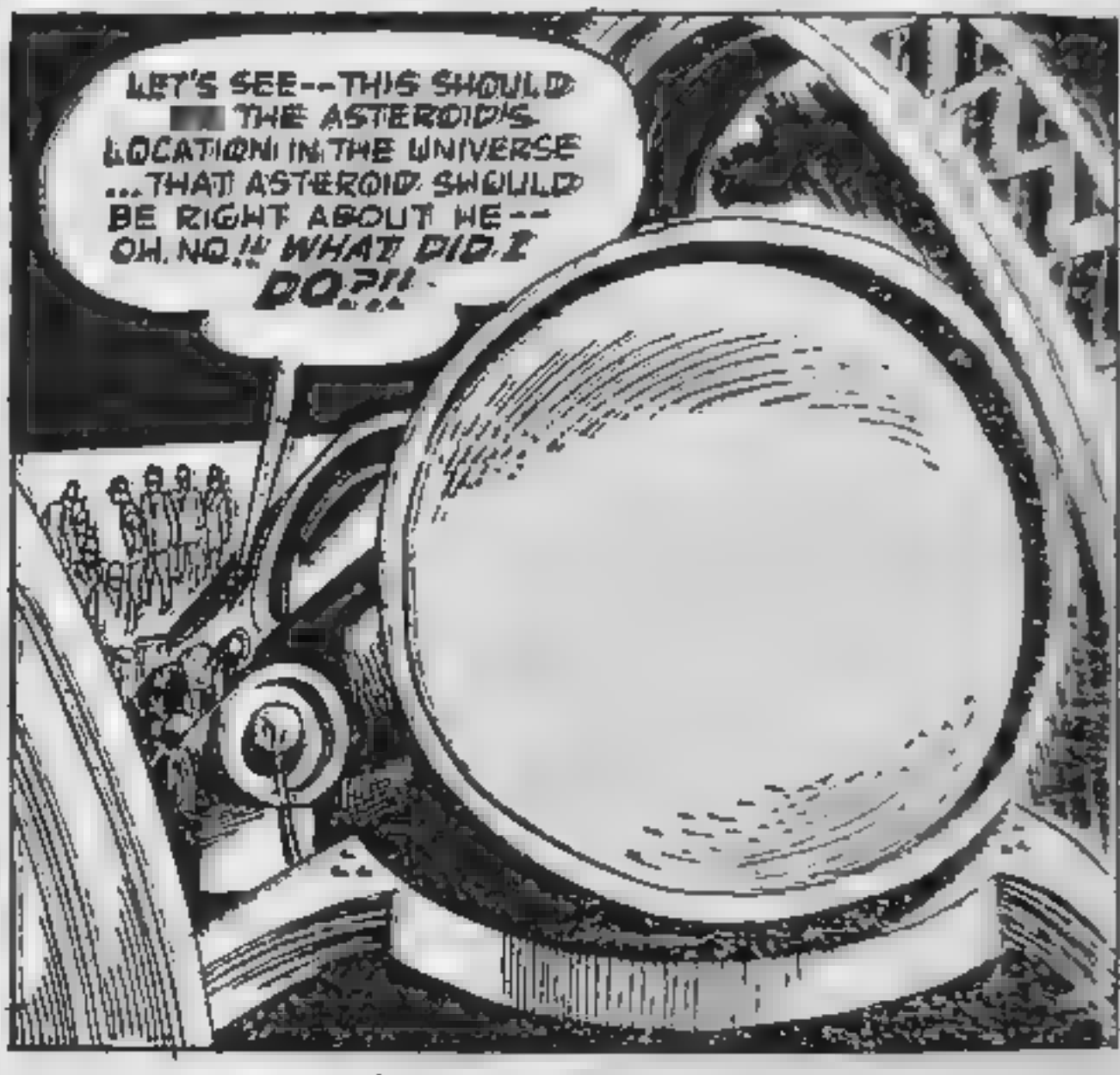

FINALLY, I WAS BACK AT THE SHIP --WITH EVERY FEW FEET OF THE WAY TO MY BURIED MONEY, PLAINLY MARKED AND RECORDED IN MY NOTES!
BOY! IT'LL BE EASY AS PIE TO FIND THE WAY BACK TO MY MONEY AGAIN! BUT IN A MILLION YEARS, NO ONE ELSE WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO FIND IT! I'VE OVERLOOKED NOTHING!

ONCE MORE I ENTERED THE SPACE SHIP AND AGAIN I WENT TO SLEEP--FOR THIS WAS THE BEST WAY TO AVOID GETTING SPACE SICK...

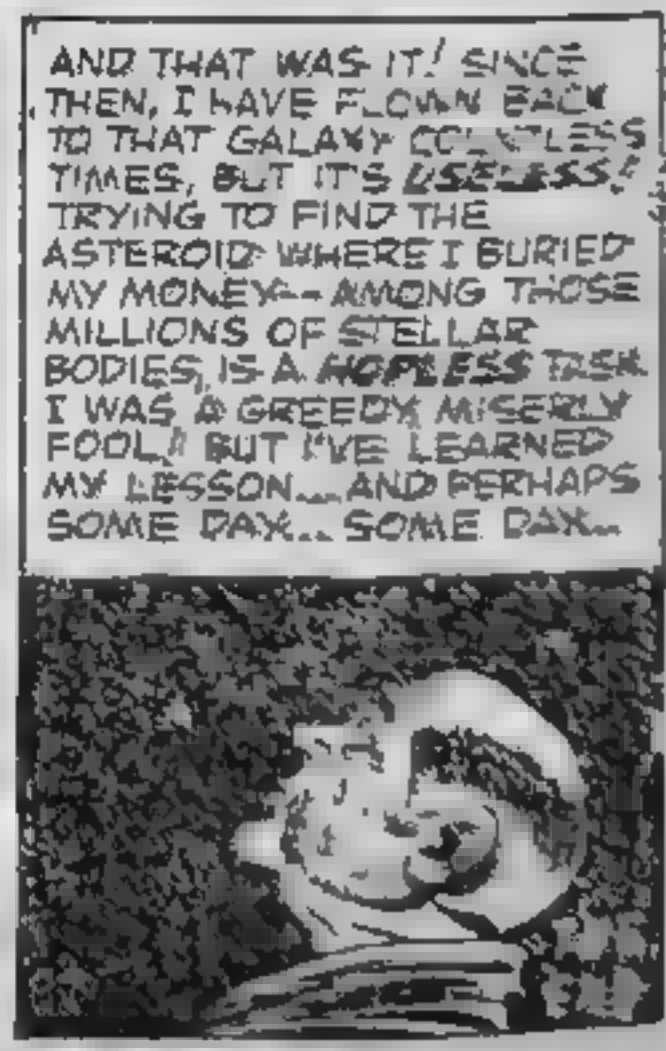

AFTER THE SAME LENGTH OF TIME, THE SHIP ARRIVED BACK ON EARTH!
WELL--MY MONEY'S REALLY SAFE NOW!! I'M THE ONLY MAN IN THE UNIVERSE WHO KNOWS WHERE IT IS!! AND NO FOOL CHARITY OR POOR RELATION WILL BE ABLE TO WHEEDLE ANY AWAY FROM ME!

HOWEVER, SOME DAYS LATER, I BEGAN TO FEEL THE PANGS OF LONELINESS... IT WAS THE FIRST TIME AFTER MANY, MANY YEARS THAT I WAS SEPARATED FROM MY ALL-IMPORTANT MONEY...
I'M LONELY... I MISS THE JOY OF SEEING MY MONEY!! MAYBE IF I TAKE A LOOK AT THE ASTEROID WHERE I BURIED IT, I'LL FEEL BETTER!

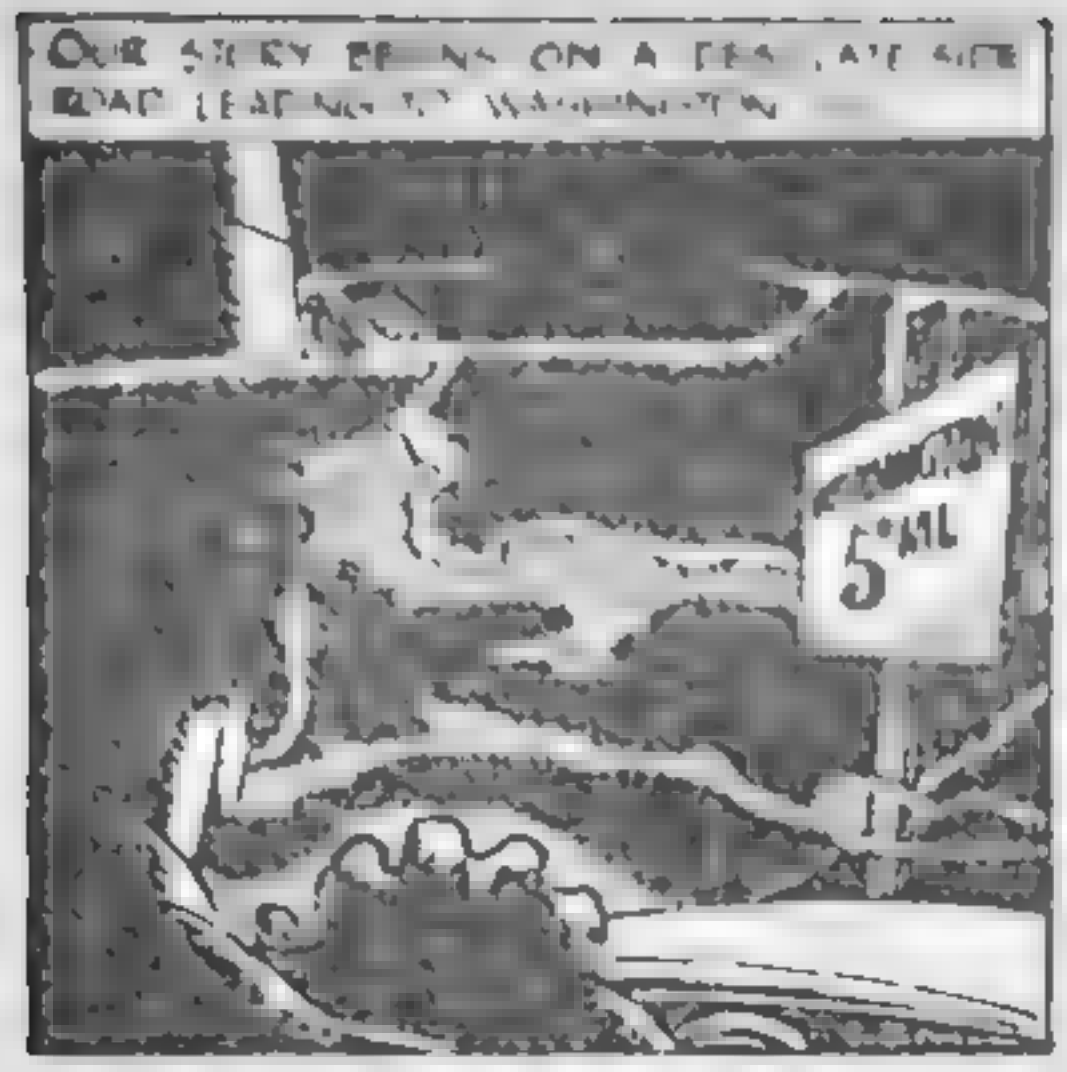
I HASTENED TO THE PUBLIC PLANETARIUM...
IT'LL BE GOOD TO AT LEAST SEE THE STELLAR BODY ON WHICH MY MONEY IS HIDDEN!


LET'S SEE--THIS SHOULD [redacted] THE ASTEROID'S LOCATION IN THE UNIVERSE ...THAT ASTEROID SHOULD BE RIGHT ABOUT HE-- OH, NO!! WHAT DID I DO?!!

THAT SPACE SHIP I WAS ON! IT LANDED IN THE MIDST OF THE DENSEST GALAXY OF ASTEROIDS IN THE UNIVERSE!! I'D KNOW HOW TO FIND MY MONEY ONCE I'M ON THE ASTEROID-- BUT I'LL NEVER FIND THE RIGHT ASTEROID!!! THERE MUST BE MILLIONS OF THEM IN THAT GROUP! I NEVER NOTICED, BECAUSE I WAS ASLEEP DURING THE TRIP!


AND THAT WAS IT! SINCE THEN, I HAVE FLOWN BACK TO THAT GALAXY COUNTLESS TIMES, BUT IT'S USELESS! TRYING TO FIND THE ASTEROID WHERE I BURIED MY MONEY-- AMONG THOSE MILLIONS OF STELLAR BODIES, IS A HOPELESS TASK. I WAS A GREEDY, MISERLY FOOL! BUT I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON... AND PERHAPS SOME DAY... SOME DAY...

RAVEN
BILLES Mayhem
A.2 POET


OUR STORY BEGINS ON A DESOLATE SIDE ROAD LEADING TO WASHINGTON
5 MI.

TO AVOID CRUSHING THE "KIDS" THE DRIVER SWERVES HIS CAR VIOLENTLY.. AND..
KRRAAM!

VERY NICE CHILDREN...
NOW BACK TO THE CAR...

ROCK-A-BYE SPIDER KICS.

I LOVE YOU SO.

BA-BOOM!
AND BYE-BYE YOU GO!

BACK TO THE SINEWY, GRIZZLY, DAMP HEADQUARTERS OF THAT MASTER... ANARCHIST THAT EVER LUV'IN SPIDER. THE ATTACHE CASE ON MY KNEES...

MEANWHILE... BACK AT SPIDER CENTRAL...
CALLING AGENT MAYVEN. THIS IS CONTROL, AT THE SINEWY, GRIZZLY, DAMP HEADQUARTERS OF THAT MASTER ANARCHIST, THAT EVER LUV'IN SPIDER... THE RAVEN IS HOVERING OVER YOU... REPEAT... THE RAVEN IS HOVERING OVER YOU...

BYE - BYE RAVEN BETTER LUCK ON THE NEXT GO - ROUND!
I NEVER SUSPECTED THAT THE SPIDER WOULD SEND HIS EVIL MAYVEN THE POET, TO GET THE STATE DEPARTMENT COURIER'S ATTACHE CASE... I'LL MEET HER AT THE OTHER END OF THE TUNNEL AND BRING HER TO JUSTICE!

SHE HASN'T COME OUT OF THE TUNNEL!
DOWN, DOWN, DOWN... TO INVESTIGATE!

MY SILACONE WING BALLASTERS WILL BLOCK MY SPEED TO LAND...
?

INTO THE VALLEY OF DEATH CHASED THE RAVEN... SEARCHING FOR ONE LOST MAYVEN...

SUDDENLY...

BLOCK THE ENTRANCE!

THE SPIDER WANTS THIS ONE ALIVE! HEH-HEH!

WHOOPS! IF IT ISN'T THE SINEWY, GRIZZLY DAMP SPIDERETTES!

VELCOME DO GOODER!

WATCH THE MERRY GO ROUND GO UMP-PA-PA - UMP-PA! PA!
UGH!
THUD
ROCK
ACH!
ACK! AACK!
WATCH THE BIRDIE!
Thud!

SHLOOM

WITH MY UNCANNY SENSE OF HEARING I KNEW YOU TWO FIENDISH WATER LILLIES WERE UP TO NO GOOD!

LET ME AT HIM! ONE TIME!

HE IS AH FARSHLUGGENER RAVEN!

KRAK!

OKAY SPIDER, CENTRAL, I'M UP... THATS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR GORILLAS DOWN IN THE TUNNEL!

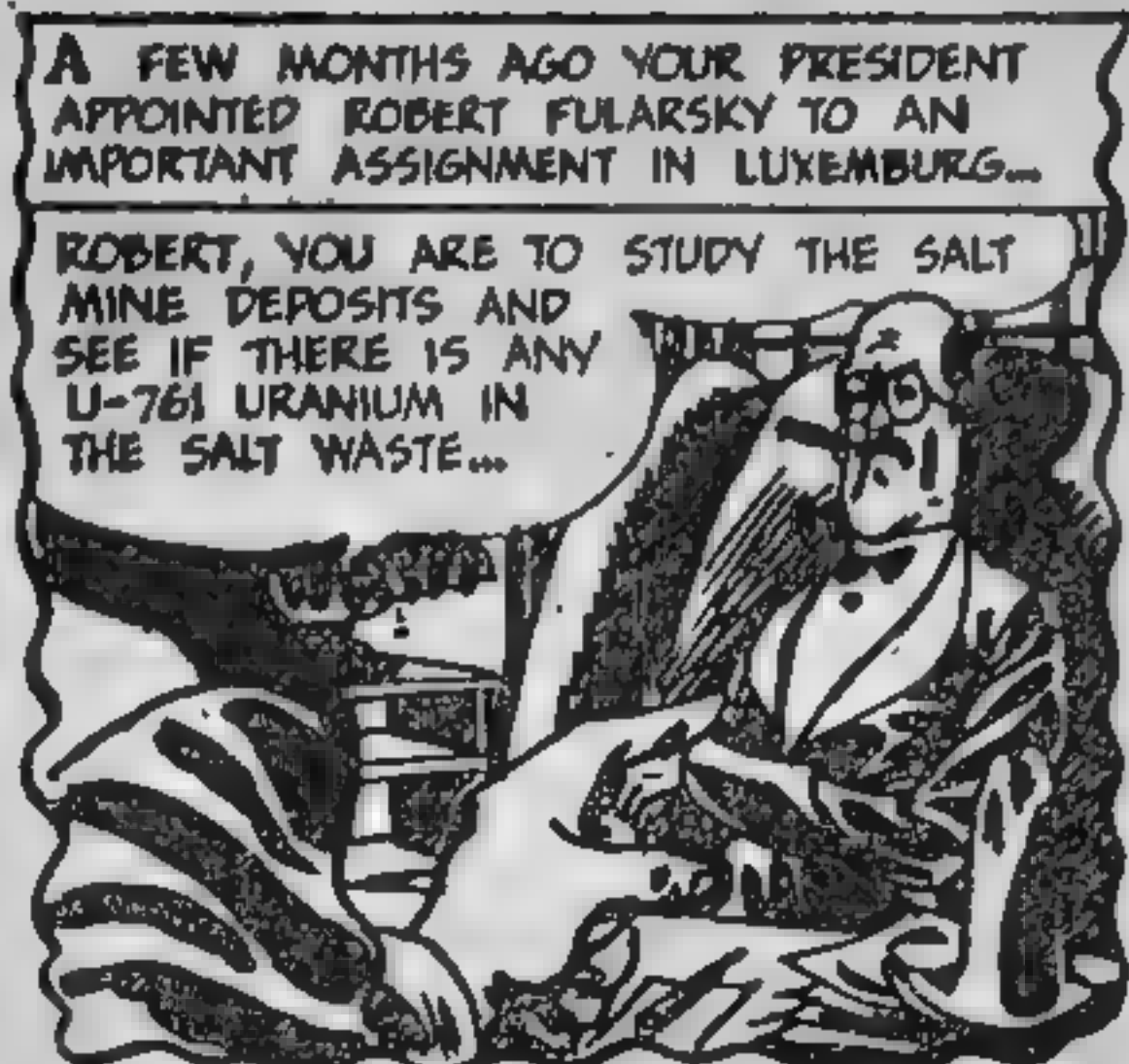
YOU HAVE THE DIPLOMAT'S ATTACHE CASE... NOW I CAN ATTEND TO DER FARSHLUGGENER RAVEN!

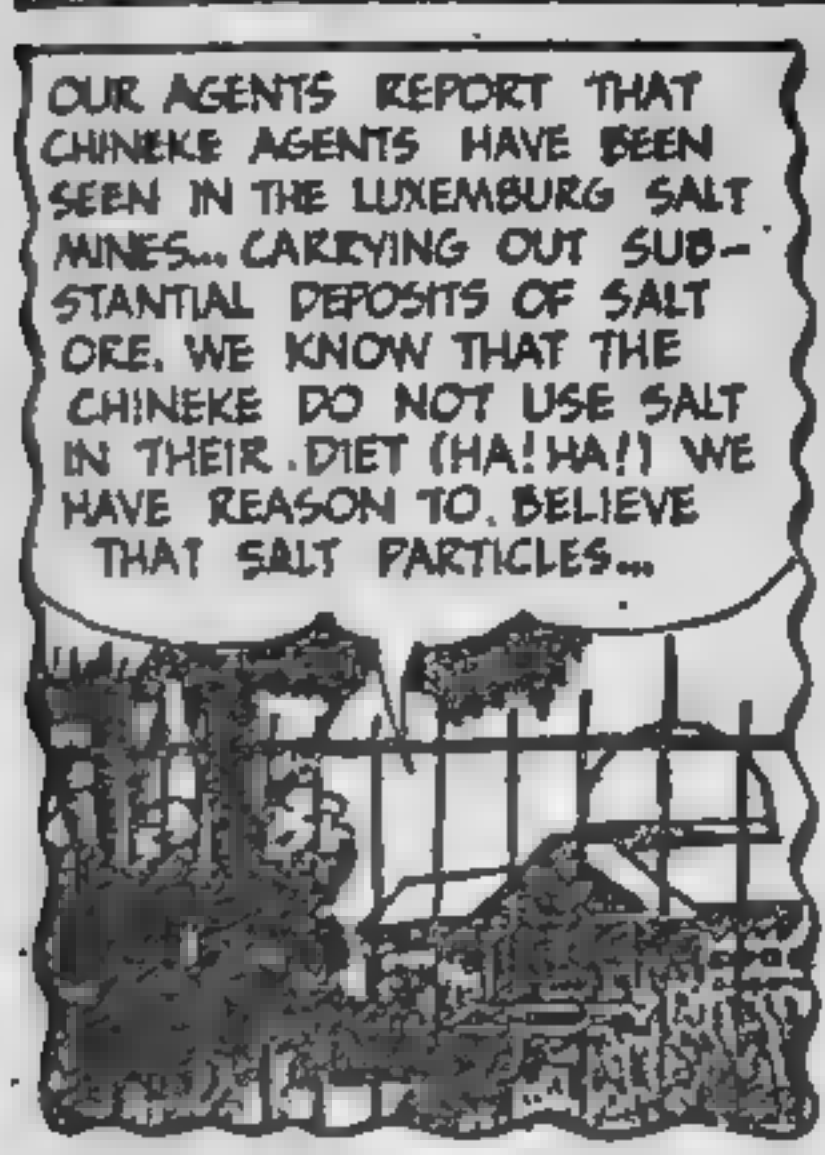
WHAM

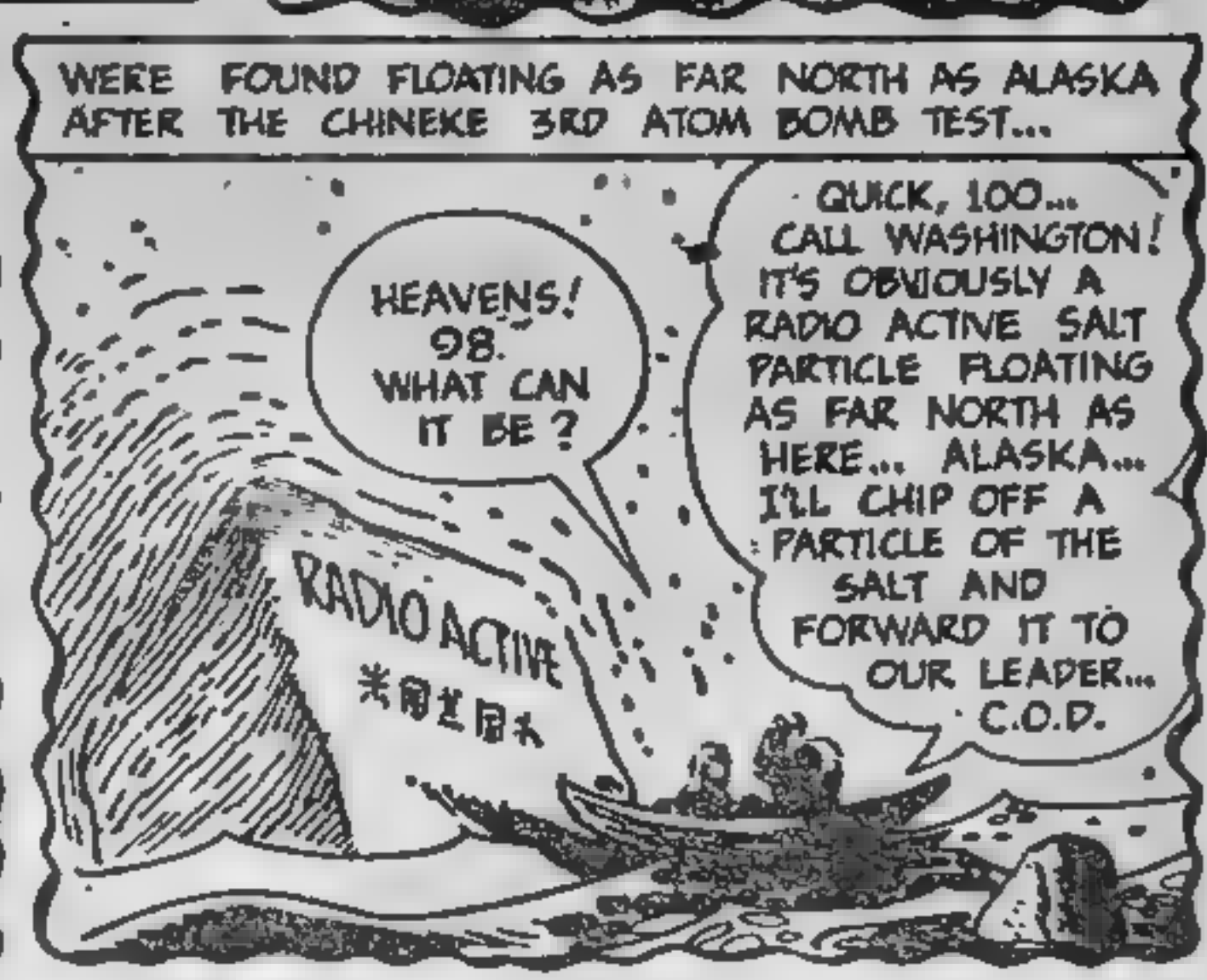
WHERE'S MAVVEN?

IN THE MASTER CONTROL ROOM ABOVE THE TUNNEL, SPIDER CENTRAL ACTS...
WITH MAYVEN OUT OF DANGER, RAVEN, THE GAS TREATMENT FOR YOU! HEH! HEH! HEH!.
GAS P
THROUGH THE INTRICATE PIPING SYSTEM
SSSSSSSSSSSSS
GASP!
GASP
LATER...
WELL RAVEN, THE WEB OF THE SPIDER IS GROWING TIGHTER! HEH! HEH!
YOUR MISSION IS SENSELESS, SPIDER CENTRAL! HA! HA!
I LET YOU CAPTURE ME ON PURPOSE...
8

NOW YOU'LL SEE WHY WE STOPPED THAT SECRET, PRIVATE, DIPLOMATIC COURIER THAT WAS CARRYING THAT U.S.A. ATTACHE CASE... BLEW HIM UP AND TOOK HIS ATTACHE CASE...HA!HA!


A FEW MONTHS AGO YOUR PRESIDENT APPOINTED ROBERT FULARSKY TO AN IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT IN LUXEMBURG...
ROBERT, YOU ARE TO STUDY THE SALT MINE DEPOSITS AND SEE IF THERE IS ANY U-761 URANIUM IN THE SALT WASTE...


OUR AGENTS REPORT THAT CHINEKE AGENTS HAVE BEEN SEEN IN THE LUXEMBURG SALT MINES... CARRYING OUT SUBSTANTIAL DEPOSITS OF SALT ORE. WE KNOW THAT THE CHINEKE DO NOT USE SALT IN THEIR DIET (HA! HA!) WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SALT PARTICLES...


WERE FOUND FLOATING AS FAR NORTH AS ALASKA AFTER THE CHINEKE 3RD ATOM BOMB TEST...
HEAVENS! 98. WHAT CAN IT BE?
RADIO ACTIVE
QUICK, 100... CALL WASHINGTON! IT'S OBVIOUSLY A RADIO ACTIVE SALT PARTICLE FLOATING AS FAR NORTH AS HERE... ALASKA... I'LL CHIP OFF A PARTICLE OF THE SALT AND FORWARD IT TO OUR LEADER... C.O.D.

SO THE COURIER WAS CARRYING THE PARTICLE OF SALT!
EXACTLY! VERY CLEVER OF YOU TO DEDUCE THAT, RAVEN!

AND NOW YOU'VE GOT THAT PARTICLE! SO THAT'S WHY YOU KILLED THE DIPLOMATIC SECRET COURIER...

NO! YOUR AGENTS FOOLED US BY MALICIOUSLY SENDING THE PIECE OF SALT THROUGH THE MAIL... BUT ONE OF THE CHINEKE AGENTS TURNED TRAITOR AND SOLD THE FORMULA TO THE U.S.A. AHA!
HERE IS FORMULA! YOU HAVE $50,000? GOOD!
AH-SO! A TRAITOR!

THAT'S WHEN THE CHINEKE GOVERNMENT CALLED US IN ON THE CASE, AND MAYVEN AND THE SPIDER KIDS WERE PUT ON THE DIPLOMATIC COURIERS TRAIL... SO!

SO HE WAS TO BRING FORMULA TO PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT MUNDY WHO AT THIS MOMENT IS GIVING A SPEECH IN SENATE HALL!

GOOD MUNDY! AND MAYVEN AND YOUR LIVING BOMBS, WALKING AROUND LOOKING LIKE CHILDREN ARE LINED UP IN THE STREET TO MEET HIM...

WITH A TREMENDOUS BURST OF SPEED THE RAVEN BREAKS LOOSE FROM HIS CAPTORS...

I MUST SAVE ASSISTANT MUNDY!

TRY SOME OF MY SLEEP GAS-PILLS!

BY GAINING FANTASTIC SPEED AND PULLING HIS WINGS TOGETHER THE MIGHTY RAVEN ACHIEVES THE POWER OF A HURTLING MISSLE ...AND TEARS THROUGH STEEL DOORS...

...RACING THROUGH SPACE TOWARD THE CAPITAL CITY...

WHERE THE SPIDER KIDS ARE JUST ABOJT TO TOJCH THE ASSISTANT...

AS MAYVEN STANDS ON THE SIDE... TO PRESS THE BUTTON THAT WILL TURN THE SPIDER KIDS INTO BOMBS
BYE-BYE, MUNDY...

LIKE A SPEEDING BULLET...
RAVEN!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
RAVEN!
OFFICER, ARREST THIS WOMEN... SHE'S MAYVEN OF SPIDER CONTROL!
LET GO!

THESE "SPIDER KIDS" ARE WALKING STICKS OF DYNAMITE ROUND UP ANY YOU SEE!
BIGORA!

BACK AT THE TUNNEL...
GONE... SPIDER CONTROL HAS DISAPPEARED...I'LL BE READY FOR THEM NEXT TIME!

BACK TO PATROL AGAINST THE WORLD'S ENEMIES!
END

IN THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY, FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON, A PLANET JUST OUTSIDE OUR GALAXY WAS MADE "OFF-LIMITS" TO ALL STARSHIPS. THE 22ND CENTURY, THERE WERE NO VIOLATIONS OF THE BAN--NOT TILL THAT FATEFUL DAY WHEN CURIOSITY GOT THE BETTER OF ME AND...

I LANDED ON THE FORBIDDEN PLANET!

IT WAS AN EASY FLIGHT AND I MADE GOOD TIME! OUTWARDLY, AT LEAST, THE PLANET LOOKED QUIET AND PEACEFUL!
IT HAS GOOD CLEAN AIR AND NICE LEVEL STRETCHES FOR LANDING!

I CAUTIOUSLY STEPPED OUT OF THE SHIP--PREPARED FOR ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HAPPEN!
NOTHING SO FAR--WAIT! A GROWING NO SE!... WHAT IS IT??

SOMETHING'S ROLLING TOWARD ME! AT FANTASTIC SPEED!

IT'S SOME SORT OF GIGANTIC, NIGHTMARISH WHEEL!

WITH LESS THAN A SECOND TO SPARE, I PLUNGED TO SAFETY!
IT MUST BE PART OF THIS PLANET'S DEFENSE SYSTEM!!

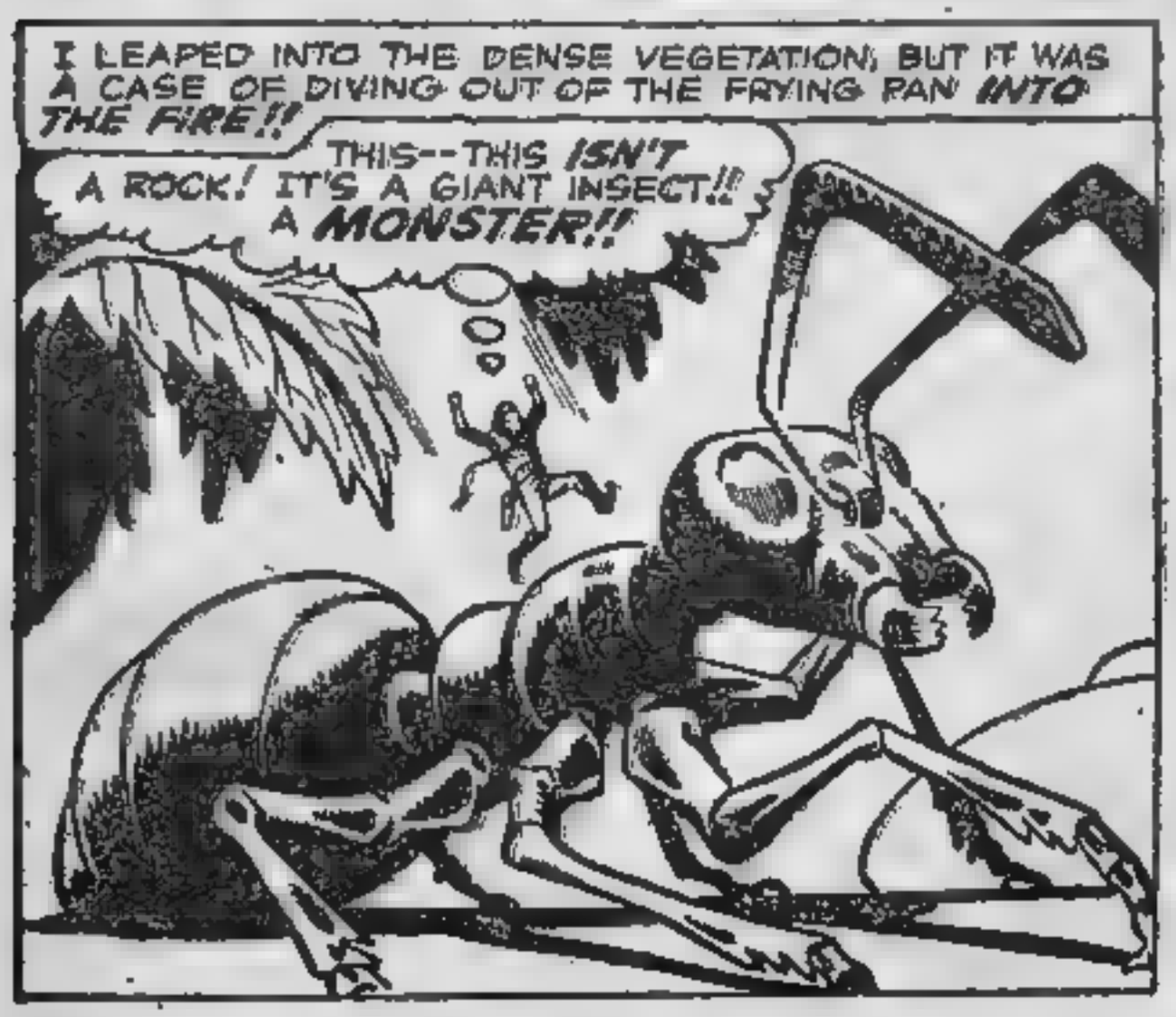
I SCRAMBLED TO MY FEET AMID A GREAT CRASH AND LOUD RUMBLINGS! THEN SUDDENLY...
A MONSTROUS ROCK! MISSED ME BY INCHES! FROM WHERE...? HOW....?

ANOTHER ONE! COMING RIGHT OUT OF THE SKY!

IT'S NO ACCIDENT! SOMEONE... SOMETHING, IS TRYING TO DESTROY ME!

THE HUGE SOLID FORMS WERE CRASHING DOWN ALL AROUND ME--THREATENING TO CRUSH ME INTO THE GROUND!
I CAN'T ESCAPE THEM ALL!

THAT JUNGLE AHEAD!! MAYBE I CAN HIDE IN THERE!


I LEAPED INTO THE DENSE VEGETATION, BUT IT WAS A CASE OF DIVING OUT OF THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE!!
THIS--THIS ISN'T A ROCK! IT'S A GIANT INSECT!! A MONSTER!!

IT DOESN'T EVEN SUSPECT MY PRESENCE! BUT WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

IT'S GOING DEEPER IN THE JUNGLE!! I'LL NEVER FIND MY WAY BACK TO THE SHIP! I'VE GOT TO GET OFF... TO RETURN!!

THERE!! NOW TO FIND... WAIT-- UP AHEAD... A-A GIGANTIC
THAT'S THE REASON OUR ANCESTORS DECLARED THIS PLANET TABOO! IT'S FILLED WITH UNBELIEVABLE MONSTER MUTATIONS!!! IT'S A LIVING DEATH TRAP!

I TRIED TO RETRACE MY WAY BACK TO THE SPACE SHIP! BUT THE ANT'S HUGE RAPID STEPS HAD TAKEN ME TOO FAR IN A SHORT TIME!!

I BELIEVE I CAME THIS WAY--THERE SHOULD BE A CLEARING...

I CAME INTO THE OPENING BUT IT ONLY INCREASED MY DANGER!

THAT GIANT WASP SPOTTED ME! IT'S GOING TO ATTACK!

EVEN THE STRONGEST BLAST FROM MY RAY GUN CAN'T KILL IT! IT JUST *STUNS* IT!

I HAD AT LEAST MANAGED TO DRIVE THE GIANT WASP OFF! EVERYTHING WAS SO HUGE, I COULDN'T BE CERTAIN THAT I WAS GOING THE RIGHT WAY!

TH'S *LOOKS* FAMILIAR-- I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE SHIP AND OUT OF HERE BEFORE I RUN INTO SOMETHING I CAN'T HANDLE!

FINALLY I SAW THE HUGE HURTLING OBJECTS THAT HAD MENACED ME EARLIER! BEYOND THEM WOULD BE THE SHIP!

YES!--THERE IT IS-- BUT... OH NO!!! *WHAT'S THAT!??*

IT WAS THEN I KNEW WHAT MY FATE WOULD BE FOR DARING TO LAND ON THE FOREBODING PLANET! *HOW* COULD I OVERCOME *THIS??*

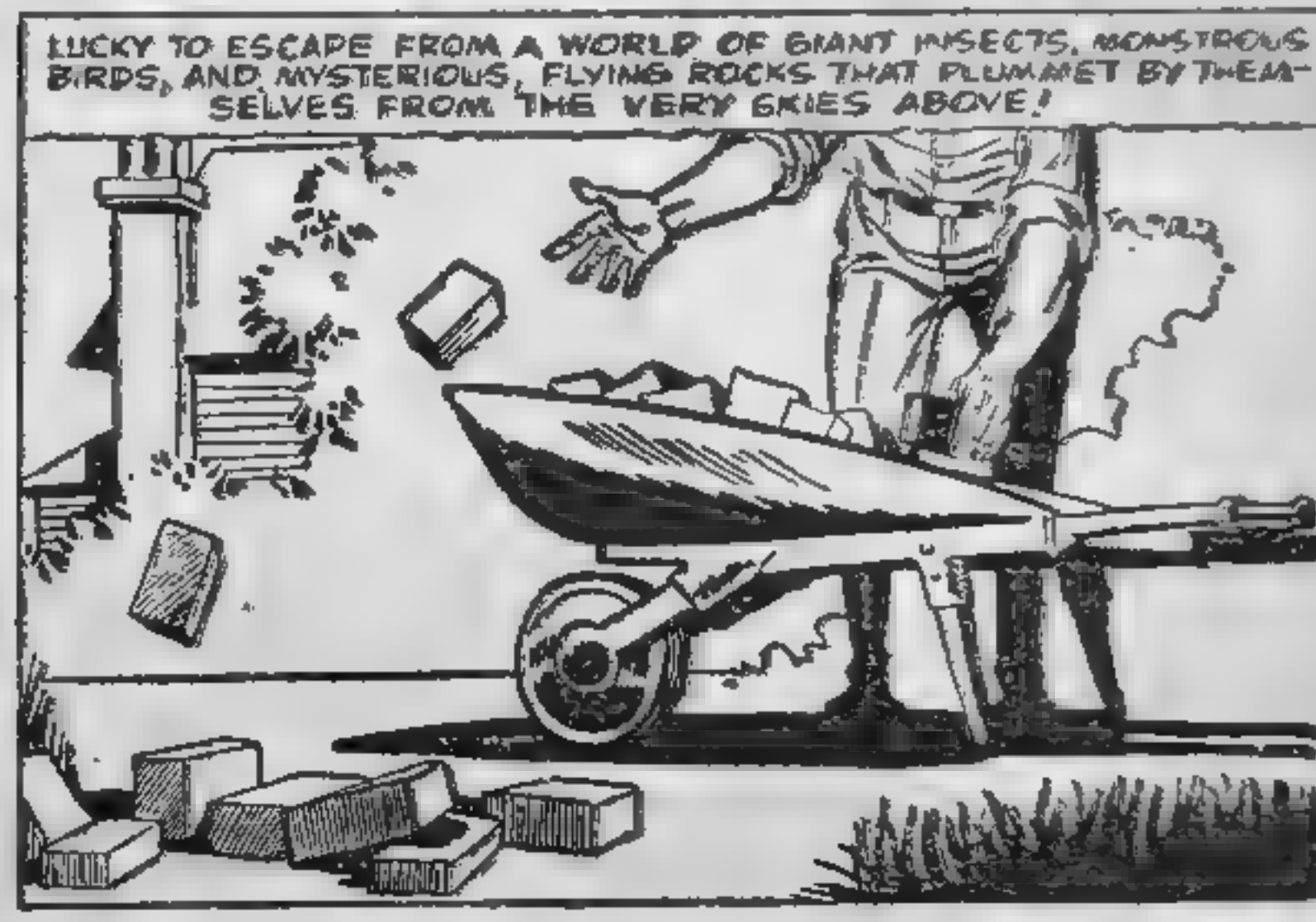
A GIANT CATERPILLAR ON THE SPACE SHIP! IF IT DAMAGES ANYTHING I'LL BE STUCK HERE FOREVER! BUT *IT* WON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE NOW-- *HE'S COMING FOR ME!*

I KNEW MY RAY GUN WOULD BE USELESS!! I BEGAN TO PRAY, IN DESPAIR AND THEN THERE WAS A GREAT FLUTTERING AND A GUST OF WIND--
SAVED!! SAVED FROM ONE MONSTER BY ANOTHER!

I RAN TO THE SHIP, PRAYING THAT NOTHING WAS DAMAGED THAT MIGHT PREVENT ME FROM LEAVING!
NOW I KNOW WHY THIS FANTASTIC WORLD IS TABOO... AND WHY IT WILL STAY THAT WAY!

AT LAST!! I'M HEADED HOME!!

WHEN I RETURN AND FILE MY REPORT NO ONE WILL EVER AGAIN ASK WHY THE PLANET HAS TO BE AVOIDED!! I WAS LUCKY TO ESCAPE WITH MY LIFE!


LUCKY TO ESCAPE FROM A WORLD OF GIANT INSECTS, MONSTROUS BIRDS, AND MYSTERIOUS, FLYING ROCKS THAT PLUMMET BY THEMSELVES FROM THE VERY SKIES ABOVE!

NOW THAT IT'S OVER, IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A HORRIBLE WORLD EXISTS!

HOW LUCKY WE ARE THAT OUR OWN GALAXY, SO CLOSE TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET, IS TOO SMALL FOR THEM TO NOTICE!! HOW I PRAY THEY WILL NEVER LEARN OF OUR EXISTENCE!!

I'M STILL NOT SURE HOW MUCH OF IT WAS REAL, AND HOW MUCH WAS MY IMAGINATION, BUT SINCE THAT TIME I'VE BEEN ABLE TO THINK OF NOTHING ELSE. I'LL BEGIN THE STORY WITH THE MORNING I RAN FROM MY HOUSE OUT INTO THE STREET...

IT'S *TRUE!* THERE *ARE* OTHER ONES!! TO US THEY'RE INVISIBLE, BUT I'VE *SEEN* ONE OF THEM! I'VE ACTUALLY SEEN PEOPLE LIVING IN *ANOTHER DIMENSION!!!*

I SAW THE *OTHER* WORLD!

THIS WAS THE MOST *IMPORTANT* DISCOVERY OF ALL TIME!! AND I COULDN'T CONTAIN IT! I HAD TO TELL IT TO THE FIRST PERSON I SAW... A MAN GOING INTO THE PARK ACROSS THE STREET!

I'M NOT NUTS! I'VE EVEN GOT PROOF OF MY DISCOVERY! SEE THIS CAMERA...
YEAH! WHAT ABOUT IT?

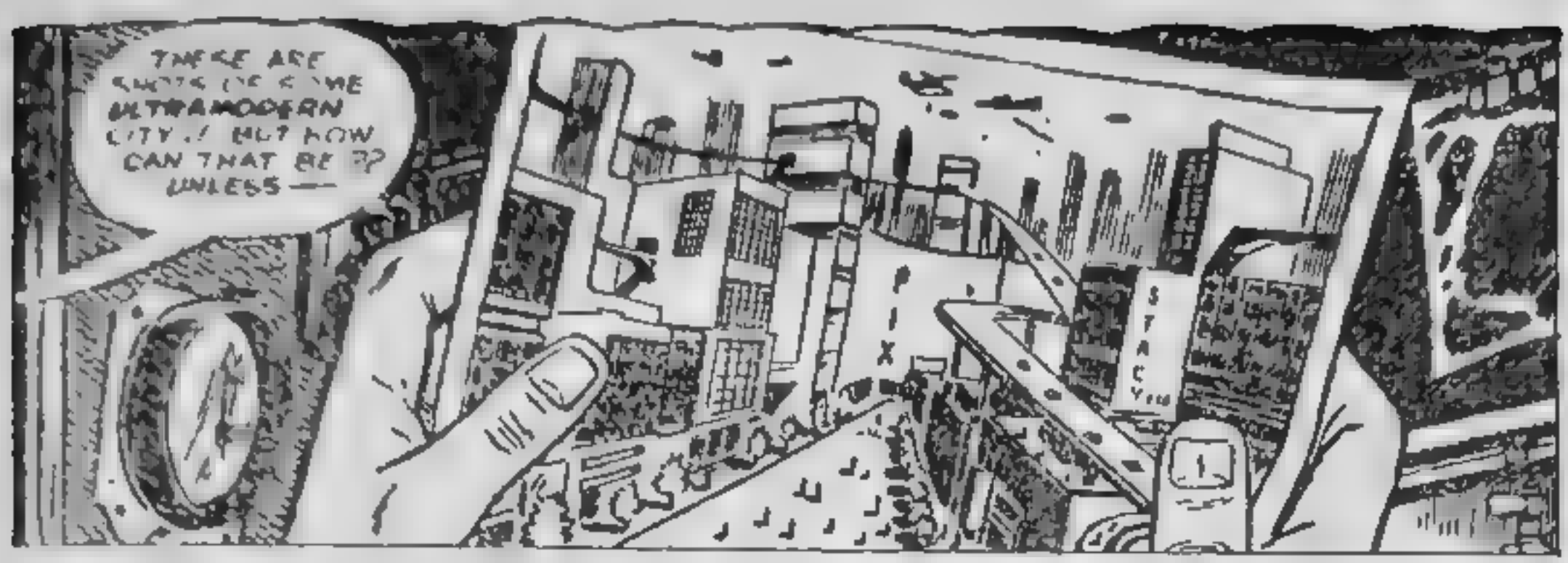
WELL, I FOUND IT YESTERDAY WHILE PASSING A VACANT LOT...
WHAT AN ODD LOOKING CAMERA! I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE IT BEFORE! AND FUNNY, THERE'S NO TRADEMARK ON IT!

BUT IT'S LOADED WITH FILM! I MIGHT AS WELL TRY IT OUT AND SEE HOW IT WORKS!

AND SO, I WALKED ALONG THE STREETS, TAKING PICTURES OF INTERESTING SIGHTS...
IT'S A NICE, SUNNY DAY! THESE SHOTS MAY COME OUT REAL GOOD!

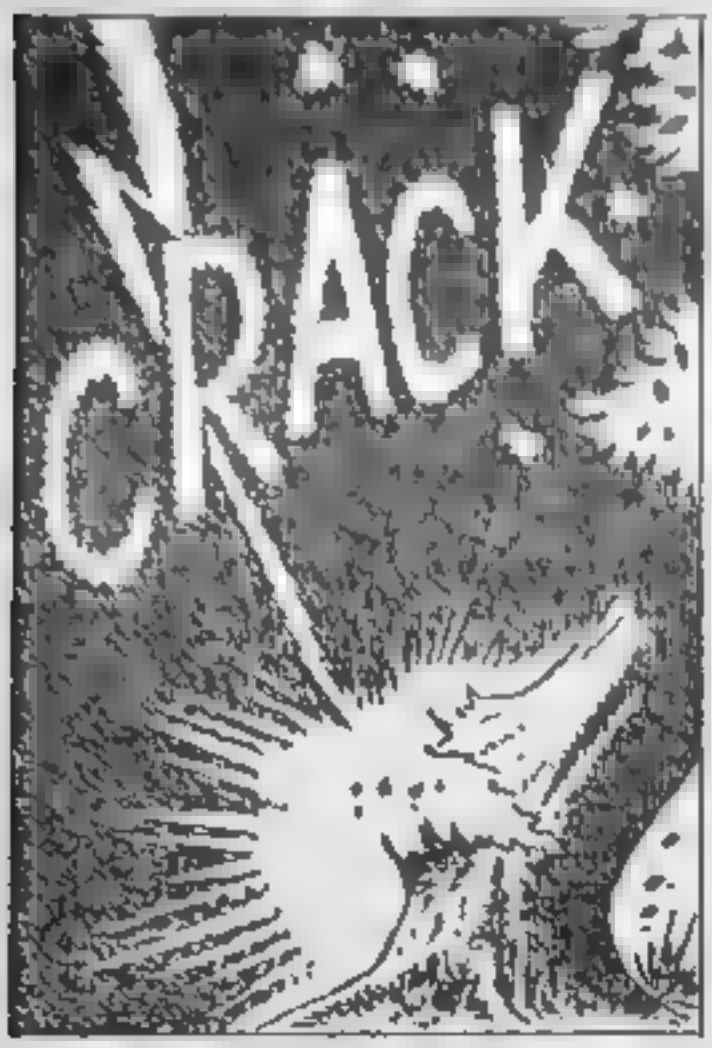
PHOTOGRAPHY IS MY HOBBY, AND I HAVE A DARKROOM AT HOME. SO WHEN I GOT BACK THERE...
THIS FILM IS DIFFERENT FROM THE STANDARD TYPES, BUT I THINK I CAN DEVELOP IT.

...SOON, I FINISHED... AND THAT'S WHEN I SAW IT!
HOLY SMOKES! THESE PICTURES!! WHAT HAVE I PHOTOGRAPHED???

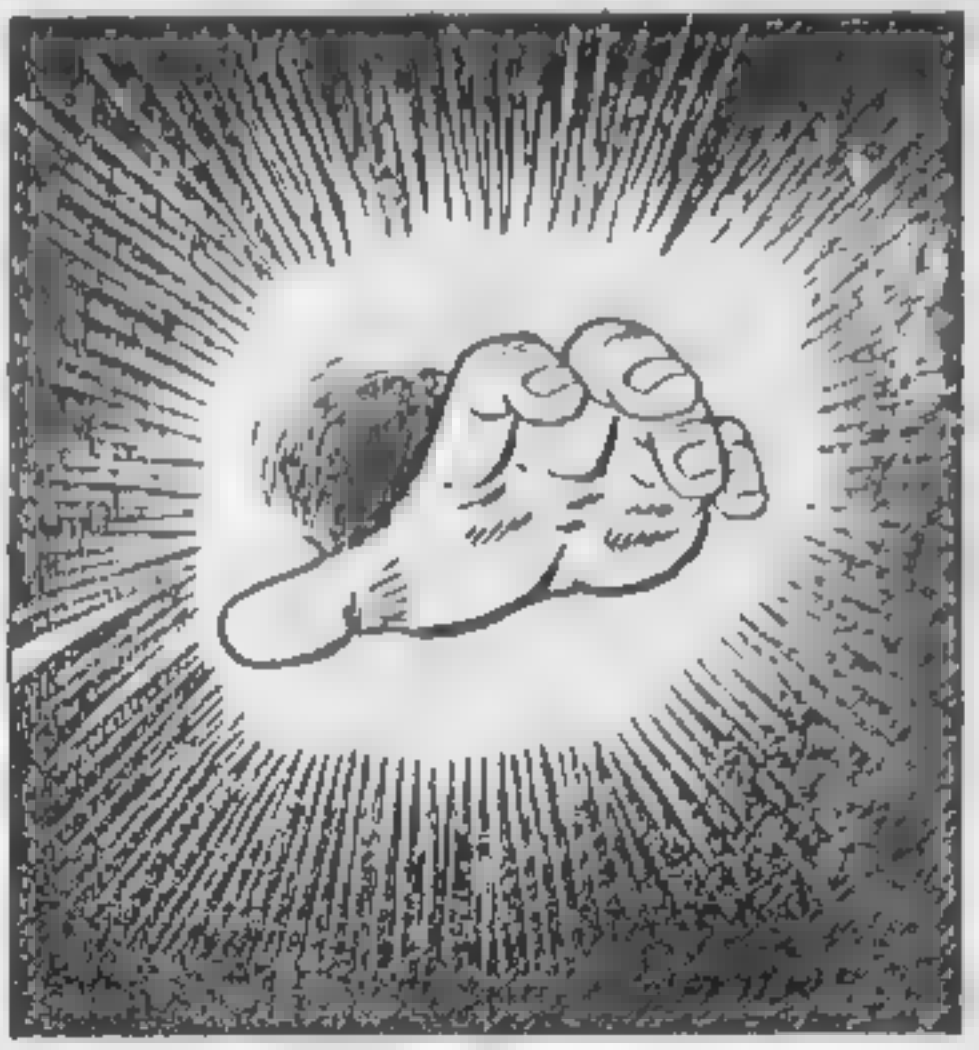


THEN, BEFORE I COULD ANSWER THE MAN... BEFORE I COULD TELL HIM THAT THERE WAS NO EARTHLY MEANS OF FAKING THOSE PHOTOS, THAT THEY HAD TO BE GENUINE ... IT BEGAN!

THEN SUDDENLY, IT *STRUCK!* THE THUNDERBOLT LANDED A FEW YARDS FROM US!



AND IN THAT FRACTION OF A SECOND, I SAW WHAT APPEARED AS AN *ELECTRICAL FORCE FIELD*... AND FROM WHICH A *HAND* EMERGED -



AND WHEN IT WAS OVER —

I LOVE A MERMAID!

FOR YEARS SOMETHING SEEMED TO DRAW ME TO THE SEA-- I SPENT EVERY MOMENT I COULD IN MY SMALL BOAT--SAILING--SEARCHING-- I KNEW NOT FOR WHAT...THEN ONE DAY, I SET OUT FROM A SMALL VENEZUELAN PORT OFF THE CARIBBEAN SEA...

MAYBE TODAY I'LL *FIND* WHATEVER IT IS THAT I'VE BEEN COMPELLED TO LOOK FOR ALL THESE YEARS... MAYBE TODAY MY RESTLESS SEARCH WILL BE OVER...

T-251

I WAS A COUPLE HOURS OUT FROM PORT WHEN I STARTED TO FEEL A STRANGE SENSATION...

I FEEL AS THOUGH SOMETHING *IMPORTANT* WERE ABOUT TO HAPPEN... SOMETHING THAT I COULD NEVER DREAM OF... BUT THAT WILL BE PART OF MY *DESTINY!*

THEN, ALL AT ONCE--IT HAPPENED! WITH AN UPWARD LUNGE--ABOVE THE SCATTERING, ROLLING FOAM--*SHE* APPEARED!

IT CAN'T BE--BUT, IT IS! *IT IS!*

IT'S A MERMAID!

MY STARTLED EYES STARED WILDLY AT THE EXQUISITE MERMAID AS SHE FROLICKED IN THE WAVES... WHILE MY BRAIN REFUSED TO BELIEVE WHAT I KNEW I WAS LOOKING AT!
I MUST GO AFTER HER! I MUST GET TO HER BEFORE SHE GOES UNDER AGAIN!

SOON I REACHED THE MERMAID... SHE WAS STILL ON THE SURFACE!
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU FROM? ARE YOU-- ARE YOU REAL... OR AM I IMAGINING THINGS?
MY NAME IS ALETHEA ... AND I COME FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA! AND--I'M REAL!

AS SOON AS I SPOKE WITH THE MERMAID, A WARM FEELING SWEPT MY BODY... AND I WAS AWARE OF A TRANQUILITY THAT I'D NEVER BEFORE KNOWN... SOON, THERE WAS MORE... WITHIN ME THERE ROSE A FEELING OF LOVE!
ALETHEA YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL!... MORE SO THAN ANY WOMAN I'VE EVER SEEN... I WANT TO JUST STAY HERE AND TALK TO YOU... AND LOOK AT YOU, AND LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE!

YOU FEEL THAT WAY... ABOUT ME?
IT--IT'S MAD --IMPOSSIBLE! AND YET... I LOVE YOU!

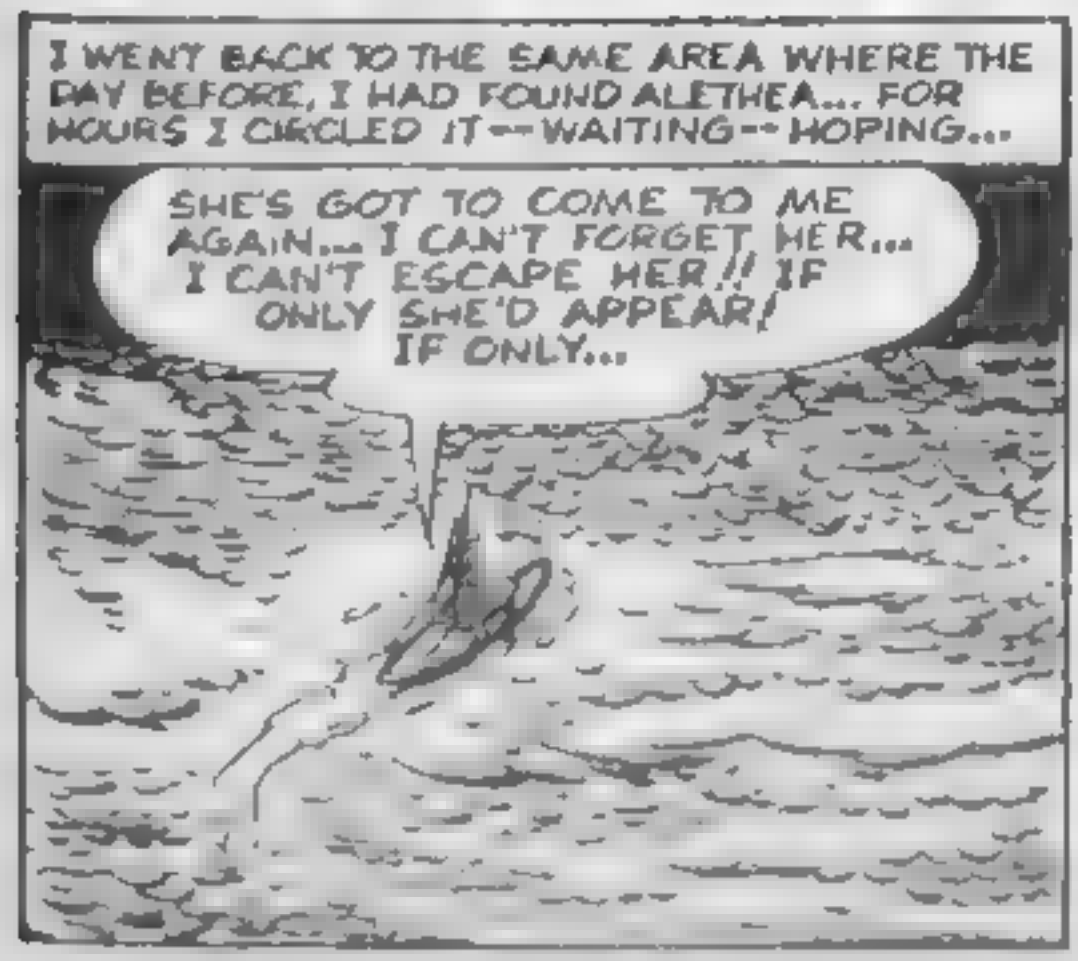
WE REMAINED LIKE THAT... THE TWO OF US... ALONE, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA... BASKING IN THE REALITY OF EACH OTHER .. AND THEN THE SUN STARTED TO SET... THE WARM RED DAY WAS ENDING!
THE SUN IS GOING DOWN... I MUST LEAVE NOW! I MUST GO BACK TO WHERE I CAME FROM...
NO, ALETHEA -- NOT YET! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME! YOU MUSTN'T! WAIT... DON'T GO!

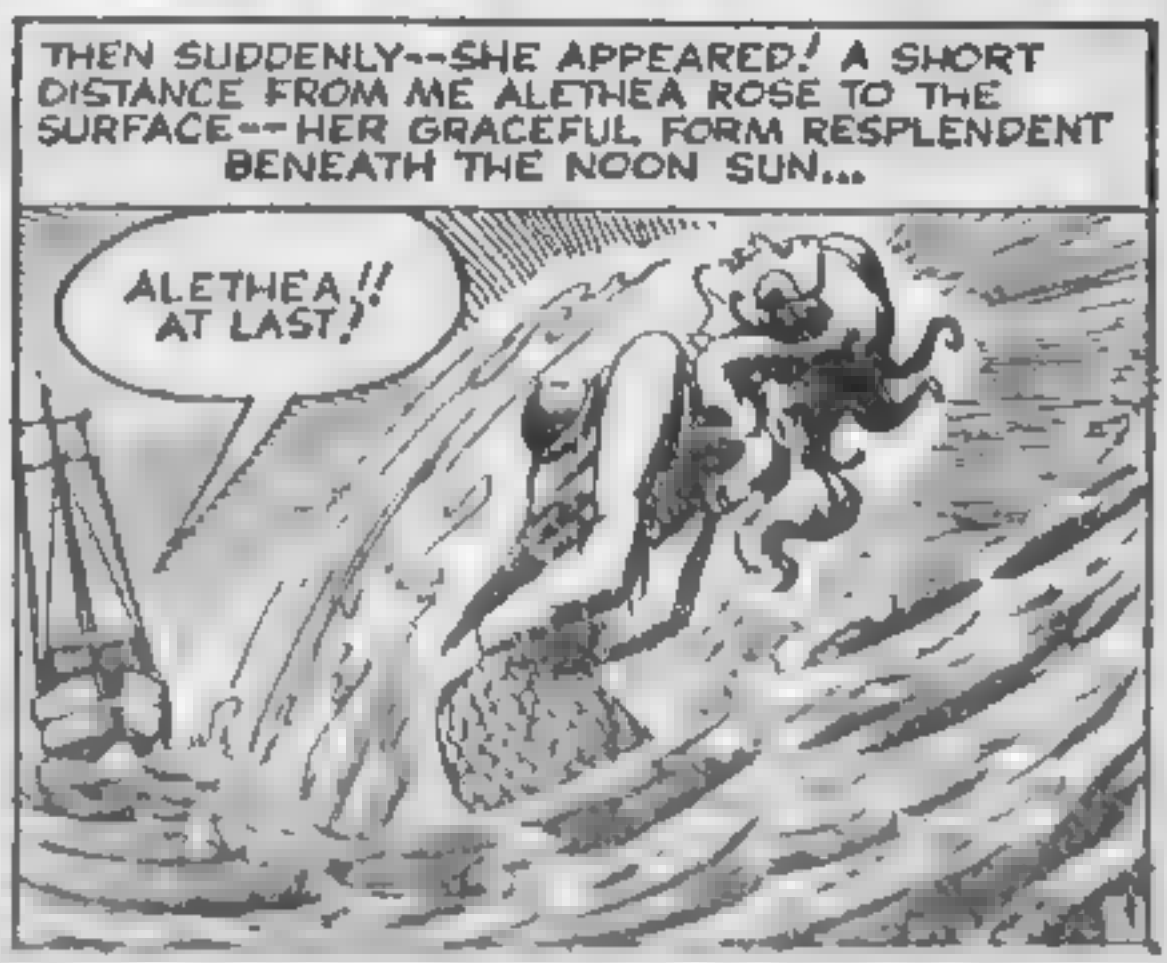
I MUST GO! GOOD-BY!
ALETHEA--COME BACK!! DON'T LEAVE ME! I LOVE YOU!! ALETHEA!

SHE'S GONE...VANISHED AS COMPLETELY AS THO' SHE WERE ON ANOTHER PLANET! BUT I'LL FIND HER AGAIN... SOMEHOW!

I TURNED AND HEADED BACK TOWARD PORT... IT WAS ALMOST DAWN... AND I WAS ONCE AGAIN ALONE... ALONE...
WHEN I GET BACK IN PORT, AND TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED... THEY'LL ALL LAUGH AT ME--THEY'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND... NOBODY COULD UNDERSTAND!

THE NEXT MORNING, THERE WERE JEERS AND TAUNTS AS I AGAIN SET OUT TO SEA...
IF I FIND HER AGAIN, I VOW, I'LL NEVER LET HER GO FROM ME!
SEÑOR... BRING BACK A MERMAID FOR US, TOO! HA! HA!
PERHAPS TODAY, YOU WILL FIND A SEA SERPENT! HA! HA! HAW!
THAT MAN! HE EES ONE BEEG FOOL!


I WENT BACK TO THE SAME AREA WHERE THE DAY BEFORE, I HAD FOUND ALETHEA... FOR HOURS I CIRCLED IT--WAITING--HOPING...
SHE'S GOT TO COME TO ME AGAIN... I CAN'T FORGET HER... I CAN'T ESCAPE HER!! IF ONLY SHE'D APPEAR! IF ONLY...


THEN SUDDENLY--SHE APPEARED! A SHORT DISTANCE FROM ME ALETHEA ROSE TO THE SURFACE--HER GRACEFUL FORM RESPLENDENT BENEATH THE NOON SUN...
ALETHEA!! AT LAST!

AS I WENT DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE SEA, I FOUND THAT I COULD BREATHE--THAT WATER WAS EVEN MORE *NATURAL* TO ME THAN WAS THE AIR ABOVE IT! AND WHEN I REACHED ALETHEA, I FINALLY *KNEW* WHAT HAD DRAWN ME TO THE SEA ALL THESE MANY YEARS! I WAS LOOKING FOR MY *LAND*... AND NOW THAT I HAD FOUND IT, I WOULD REMAIN THERE FOREVER! *I HAD COME HOME!*

MY NAME IS HARRY WOLF AND RIGHT NOW, BACK ON EARTH, EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT ME! ABOUT HOW I *ESCAPED* FROM THE POLICE! HOW I *OUTSMARTED* THEM ALL, ESPECIALLY THAT CRUMMY JUDGE WHO SENTENCED ME TO *LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!* YES SIR, HARRY WOLF SHOWED 'EM ALL! I DID WHAT NO OTHER HUMAN HAS EVER DONE...

I ESCAPED TO THE STARS

IT ALL STARTED TWO WEEKS AGO WITH A PLAN TO *ROB* OLD MAN HENDERSON! I HAD WORKED FOR HIM LAST SUMMER AND I KNEW THE LOCATION OF HIS *WALL SAFE,* AND WHAT ITS "SOUND AND TOUCH" COMBINATION WAS! IT ALL WAS EASY, 'CAUSE THOSE DAYS NO ONE FIGURED ON BEIN' ROBBED... AFTER ALL, THE YEAR WAS *3095,* AND PEOPLE DON'T DO BARBAR'C THINGS LIKE THAT ANY MORE UNLESS THEY'RE LIKE HARRY WOLF, SMART ENOUGH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE IN A WORLD FULL OF PEACEFUL SUCKERS! ANYHOW, IT WAS ALMOST MIDNIGHT...

THIS'LL BE *EASY!* THE OLD GUY'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!

BOB TOUGH

7-211

AND AFTER HE'S OUT OF THE WAY, I'LL GET THAT WALL SAFE OPEN! UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THERE SHOULD BE A *FORTUNE* IN THERE!

SLOWLY, I RAISED MY *"BLASTER"* TILL ITS HEAVY METALLIC BARREL WAS POISED FOR ACTION! THEN, JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO BRING IT DOWN...

I ALMOST FEEL *SORRY* FOR THE OLD GUY! WELL, I'LL MAKE IT QUICK...

HI, DAD! JANE AND I JUS-- WHA--*GOOD GRIEF! LOOK OUT!*

IT WAS TOO LATE FOR ME TO STOP! IN A REFLEX MOTION, MY ARM CAME DOWN!! BUT HIS SON'S WARNING CAME IN TIME ..THE OLD MAN JERKED TO ONE SIDE...

AND THEN HIS SON GOT ME FROM BEHIND!

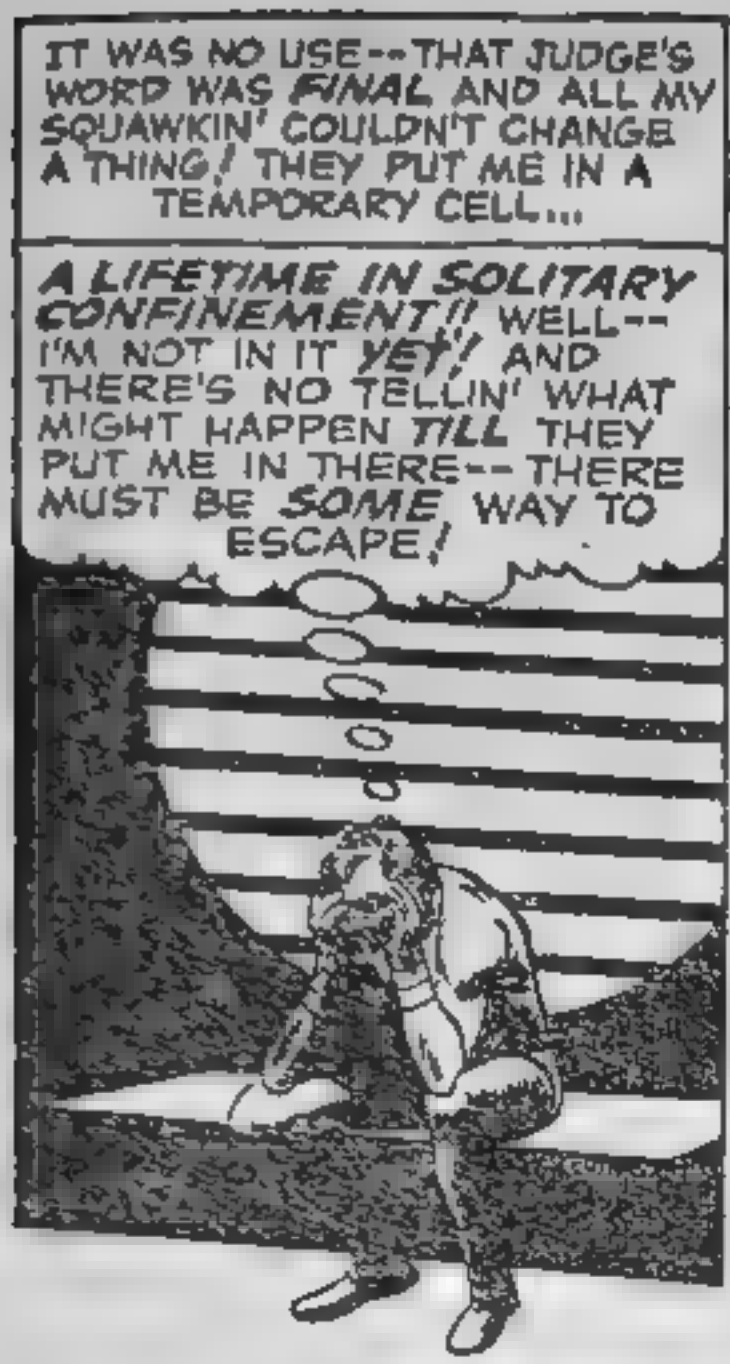
EVERYTHING STARTED TO SPIN ABOUT ME CRAZILY! I WAS IN A COLORED, WHIRLING VORTEX...

WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
THAT'S RIGHT, CAPTAIN! WE CAME INTO THE ROOM JUST AS THAT SKUNK WAS ABOUT TO ATTACK MY FATHER! HE WORKED FOR HIM LAST SUMMER AND KNEW HE WAS A WEALTHY MAN!

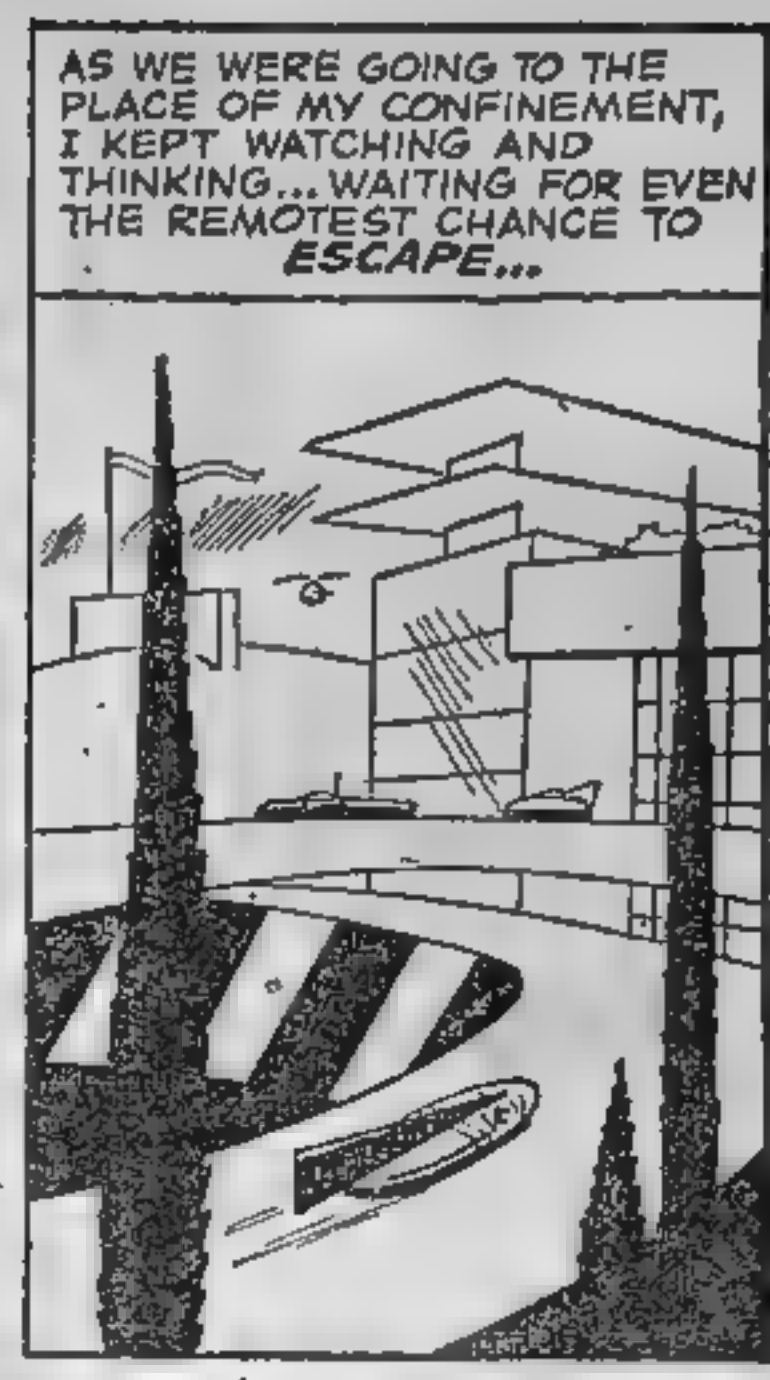
I WAS SOON BROUGHT TO TRIAL... BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE OF GETTING OFF, SO...
MY CLIENT PLEADS GUILTY AS CHARGED, YOUR HONOR!

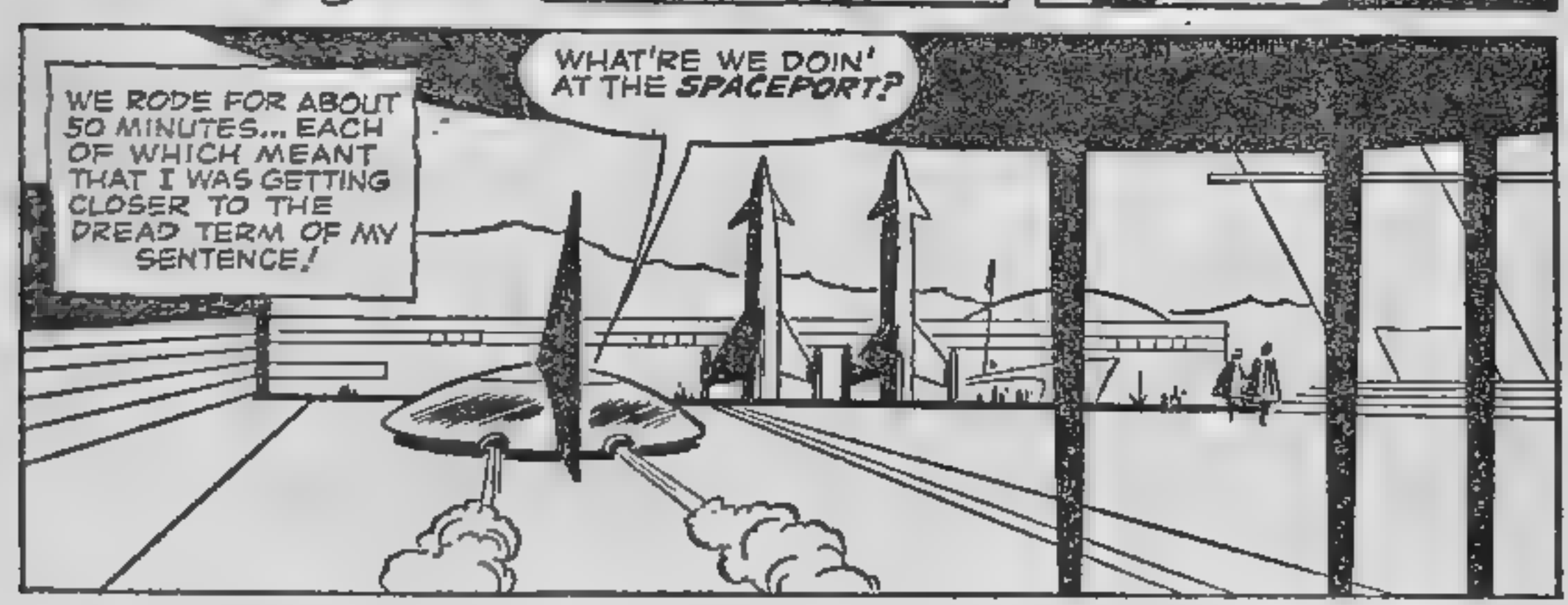
IN ALL MY YEARS ON THE BENCH, I HAVE NEVER COME ACROSS SO VICIOUS AN ATTEMPTED CRIME! WHY, I DON'T THINK THERE'S BEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS...SINCE 2000 A.D..SINCE THE LAST DAYS OF THE BARBARIC GOVERNMENTS!!

THE HEINOUS NATURE OF THE DEFENDENT'S CRIME LEAVES ME NO CHOICE, BUT TO GIVE HIM THE MAXIMUM PENALTY!! I THEREBY SENTENCE THE DEFENDENT, HAROLD WOLF, TO A TERM OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT... IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!
WHAT?! YOU CAN'T DO THAT! NOT TO ME! NO! NO!!


IT WAS NO USE--THAT JUDGE'S WORD WAS FINAL AND ALL MY SQUAWKIN' COULDN'T CHANGE A THING! THEY PUT ME IN A TEMPORARY CELL...
A LIFETIME IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!! WELL--I'M NOT IN IT YET! AND THERE'S NO TELLIN' WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TILL THEY PUT ME IN THERE--THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO ESCAPE!

THE NEXT DAY THEY CAME FOR ME...
OKAY, WOLF--TIME TO BEGIN SERVING YOUR LIFE SENTENCE! COME WITH US!
W-WHERE ARE YOU GUYS TAKING ME?


AS WE WERE GOING TO THE PLACE OF MY CONFINEMENT, I KEPT WATCHING AND THINKING...WAITING FOR EVEN THE REMOTEST CHANCE TO ESCAPE...


WE RODE FOR ABOUT 50 MINUTES... EACH OF WHICH MEANT THAT I WAS GETTING CLOSER TO THE DREAD TERM OF MY SENTENCE!
WHAT'RE WE DOIN' AT THE SPACEPORT?

WE WALKED OUT ON THE SPACESTRIP TOWARD AN AWAITING ROCKET SHIP... AT LAST I UNDERSTOOD THE FATE THAT LAY IN STORE FOR ME!
THEY'RE GONNA MAKE ME SERVE MY SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN A PRISON ON SOME OTHER PLANET! I CAN'T LET 'EM DO THAT TO ME! NOT THAT!

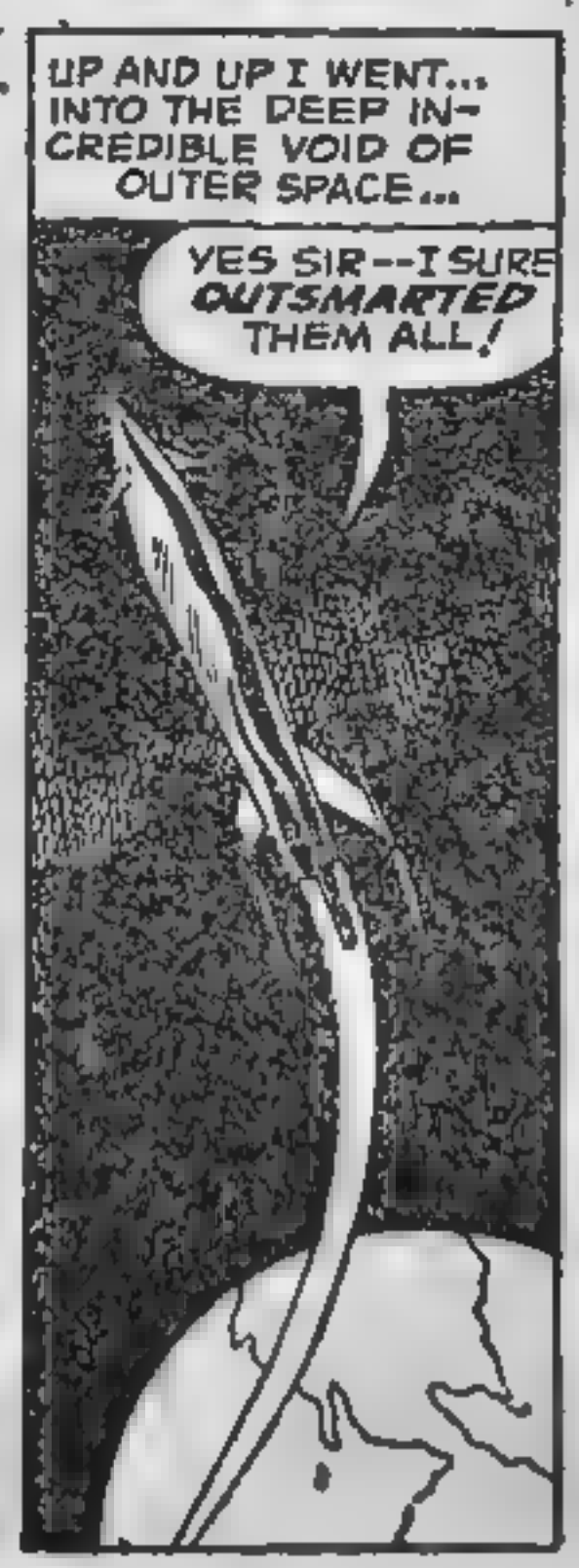
IN DESPERATION, I BROKE AWAY AND MADE A RUN TOWARD AN ADJACENT ROCKET SHIP!!
HEY, STOP!
THAT OTHER ROCKET SHIP! MAYBE I CAN MAKE IT!

IF I CAN JUST GET IN HERE, BEFORE THEY REACH ME...
STOP!
WAIT!

I LOCKED THE HERMATIC DOOR...
WHEW! I'M SAFE NOW! THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BUST IN HERE BEFORE I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO TAKE OFF IN THIS THING!

IT SAYS AUTOMATIC STARTER!! AND ALL THESE OTHER INDICATORS... THEY ALL READ AUTOMATIC! WHY, THIS'LL BE A CINCH! I WON'T HAVE TO FIGURE OUT ANYTHING ABOUT PILOTING! I'LL JUST PRESS THE AUTOMATIC STARTER!

THE SHIP TOOK OFF AS SMOOTH AS SILK! IT WAS ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
SO LONG, SUCKERS! I GUESS THIS'LL SHOW YA NO ONE CAN PUT HARRY WOLF IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!!


UP AND UP I WENT... INTO THE DEEP INCREDIBLE VOID OF OUTER SPACE...
YES SIR--I SURE OUTSMARTED THEM ALL!

WHILE THE SHIP WAS FLYING AUTOMATICALLY... AS THOUGH ON SOME PREARRANGED COURSE, I EXAMINED THE VARIOUS CHAMBERS AND PASSAGEWAYS OF THE SHIP... AGAIN I WAS IN LUCK!
WHAT A BREAK! A CARTON OF FOOD PELLETS WAS LEFT HERE!! AND THERE'S ENOUGH OF 'EM TO LAST ME THE REST OF MY LIFE!

I WAS NOW FEELIN' PRETTY RELAXED! I HAD ME A GOOD MEAL, THEN I SETTLED BACK TO TAKE A NAP! AND THAT'S WHEN I *SAW* IT!

HMMM... I MUST'VE *OVERLOOKED* THIS, BEFORE! IT'S SOME KINDA INSTRUCTION BOOK OR SHIP'S LOG, OR SOMETHING!

MISSION OF INTERSTELLAR SPACE SHIP XX3088

IN THE BEGINNING OF THE BOOK THERE WAS AN EXPLANATION OF THE *PURPOSE* OF THE SPACE SHIP!

"INTERSTELLAR SPACE SHIP XX3088 IS AN *AUTOMATIC* ROCKET SHIP BUILT FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE AND *AUTOMATICALLY TRANSMITTING* OUTER GALACTIC *INFORMATION* BACK TO *EARTH!* THIS SHIP WILL TRAVEL TO THE FURTHEST REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE...

...WHERE IT WILL DETECT VARIOUS KINDS OF SCIENTIFIC DATA, AND TRANSMIT THEM *BACK* TO EARTH VIA RADIO BEAMS, AUTOMATICALLY! THE SHIP WILL DO THIS *INDEFINITELY! IT WILL NEVER AGAIN RETURN TO EARTH!*"

WELL, I'LL BE! SO THIS SHIP'S SENDING INFORMATION BACK TO EARTH -- BUT WILL *NEVER* ITSELF *RETURN* TO EARTH!

WELL, THAT'S NOT SO BAD! MAYBE SOME DAY IT'LL *LAND* ON SOME DISTANT PLANET... WHERE NO ONE'LL KNOW ABOUT MY *CRIME*, AND WHERE IT'LL BE SAFE FOR ME TO LIVE!

AND *IF NOT*, I DON'T REALLY CARE! I'D LIKE TO *TRAVEL* AND *EXPLORE*! HECK -- I COULD THINK OF A LOT OF *WORSE* WAYS TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE! SUCH AS ROTTING AWAY IN *SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!* YES SIR THIS IS A [illegible] TIMES BETTER [illegible] THAT!

EDITOR'S NOTE: MEANWHILE, AS HARRY WOLF CONTEMPLATED THE INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL LIFE AHEAD OF HIM -- AN ELDERLY JUDGE, BACK ON EARTH, WAS JUST FINISHING UP A REPORT...

... AND THE PRISONER'S SENTENCE HAS BEEN *CARRIED OUT!* HARRY WOLF IS NOW SERVING HIS LIFE TERM OF *SOLITARY CONFINEMENT*... AS USUAL, THE PRISONER WAS PERMITTED TO THINK HE HAD ESCAPED... SO THAT HE MAY LIVE IN HOPE! FOR IN OUR ENLIGHTENED CIVILIZATION, WE *KNOW* THAT *HOPE* IS MAN'S MOST CHERISHED POSSESSION! AND SO, THE CASE IS... CLOSED!

THE END

I SPENT ETERNITY IN A DEEP FREEZE!

IT WAS MIDNIGHT! EVERYTHING WAS PEACEFUL AT THE SELF SERVICE REFUELING SATELLITE! AT LEAST FOR A WHILE! AND THEN, I MADE MY MOVE!

... I'LL TAKE THAT PAY-ROLL YOU'RE CARRYING! AND IF YOU EVEN *THINK* OF MAKING A FALSE MOVE... I'LL REDUCE YOU TO A PILE OF DUST!

SELF SERVICE REFUEL CENTER

D-DON'T SHOOT!! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU! ANYTHING--ONLY DON'T SHOOT!

MY NAME'S JOE SYKES... OR AT LEAST IT WAS JOE SYKES... I'M NOT SURE OF ANYTHING *NOW!* IT'S ALL SO FANTASTIC... I CAN HARDLY GET MYSELF TO THINK ABOUT IT... BUT I GOTTA... I GOTTA THINK... I GOTTA TRY TO REMEMBER... SO VERY LONG AGO... IT HAPPENED SO VERY LONG AGO...

IT WORKED! THE VICTIM FLED AND I WAS ALONE WITH THE MONEY! I FELT MY TEETH CHATTER IN NERVOUS FEAR, BUT I KNEW I HAD TO CONTROL MYSELF FOR A WHILE LONGER...

...AND KEEP GOING!.....

NOW I'VE GOT TO GET HOME TO FACE MARTHA! THAT'S ALWAYS THE HARDEST PART!

...OF COURSE, THERE ALWAYS WAS THE UNPLEASANT PART OF IT...

'LO HONEY!... I'M BACK! HAD A PRETTY GOOD DAY!

OH, JOE! NOT AGAIN!! WHEN ARE YOU GONNA STOP *STEALING*?! YOU JUST CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS, JOE!! YOU PROMISED TO STOP!

YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T STEAL ANYMORE, JOE! YOU SAID--

SHUT UP! I'M TIRED OF HEARING YOU SQUAWK! DO YOU THINK I *ENJOY* RISKIN' MY NECK? GO GET MY DINNER! I'M HUNGRY!

WHAT'S THIS?

5 STAR EDITION

CLA

ALL THE NEWS

"HYPERATOMIC DEEP FREEZE" NOW MAKES SPACE TRAVEL TO OUTER GALAXIES FEASIBLE. HOWEVER, SO FAR NO ONE HAS VOLUNTEERED TO GO!

WHAT IS IT, JOE?

SOME GUY'S INVENTED A "*DEEP FREEZE*" FOR SPACESHIP PASSENGERS! IT SAYS THAT NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, A GUY CAN TRAVEL TO THE OTHER END OF THE UNIVERSE... AND WHEN HE GETS BACK, HE'LL BE *NO OLDER* THAN WHEN HE LEFT!

BOY--ANY GUY WHO GOES TO THE OUTER GALAXIES, WILL COME BACK *FAMOUS!!* HIS NAME WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY!!

...AND IT'S GONNA BE ME!! THAT GLORY WILL BE *MINE!!*

JOE--WAIT!! PLEASE--COME BACK!

I HOPPED A PLANE TO WASHINGTON!... DESTINATION: THE 'HASTINGS' EXPERIMENTATION CENTER...

IT'S GOOD TO FEEL THIS EXCITED AGAIN... JUST LIKE WHEN I *FIRST STARTED* FLYING THE SPACEWAYS!

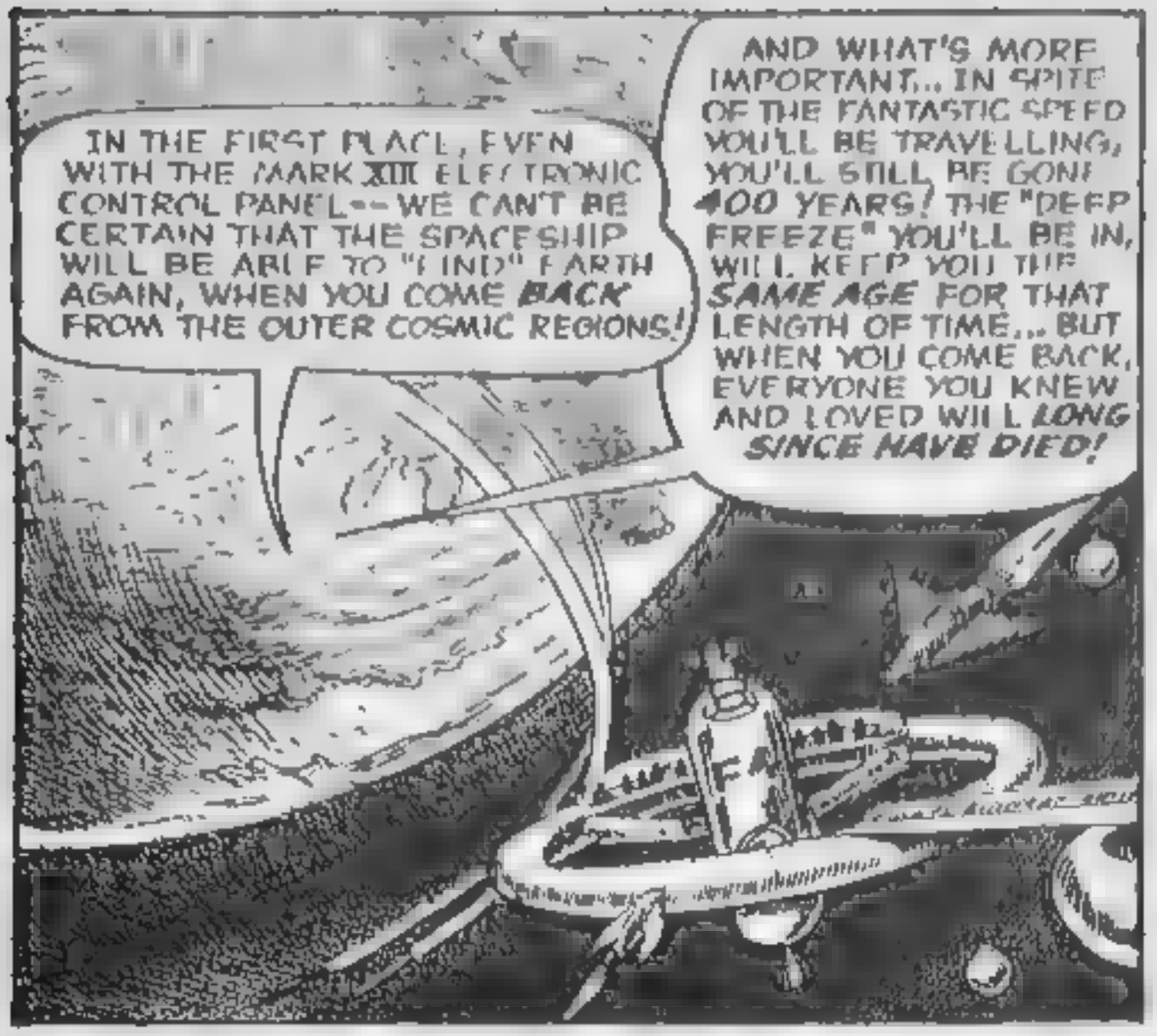
...THREE HOURS LATER...

...AND I WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO GO TO THE OUTER GALACTIC REGIONS!

ARE YOU SURE?

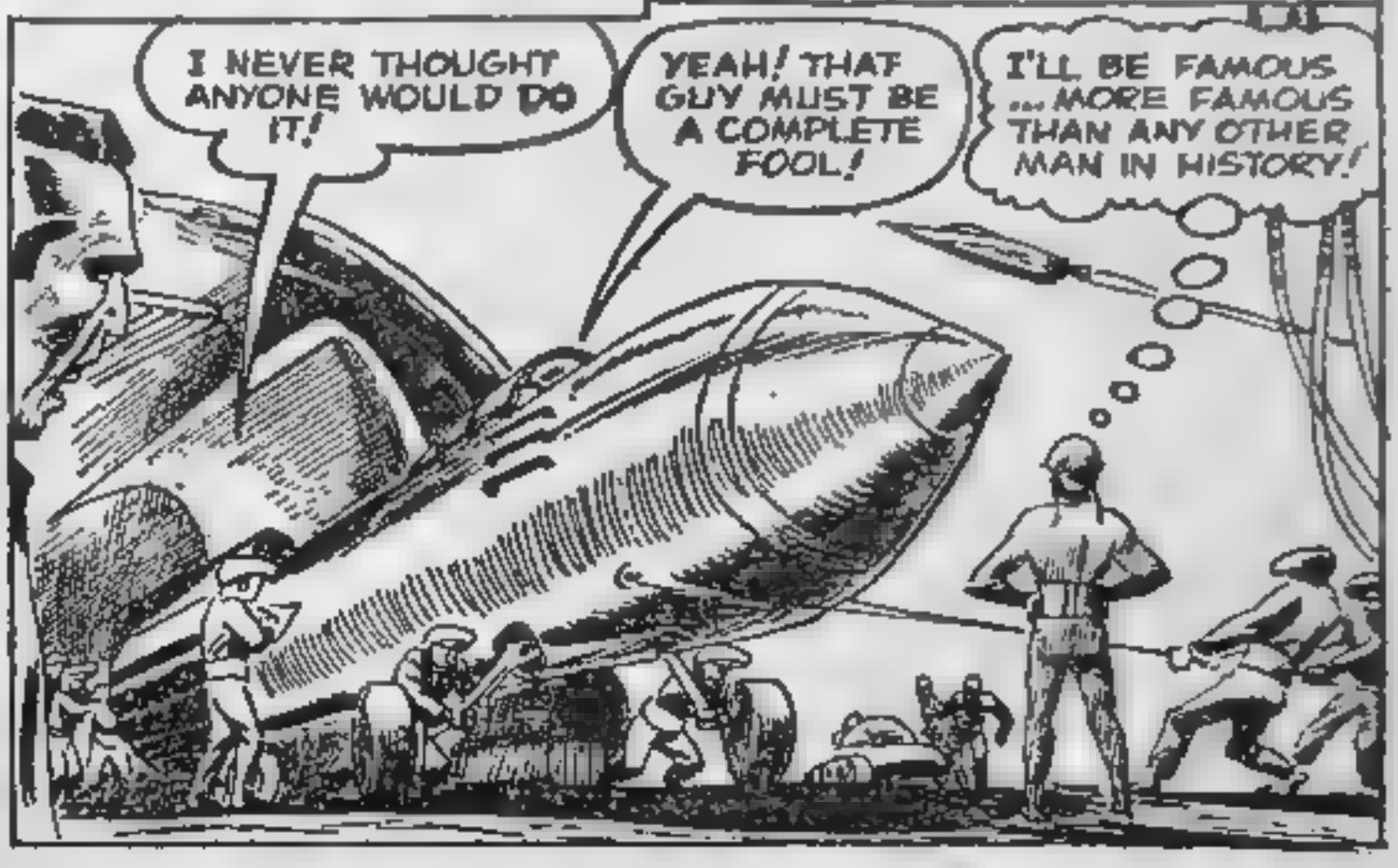
OF COURSE I AM!

MR. SYKES... WE ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE! BUT THERE ARE A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT A VOYAGE SUCH AS THIS...


IN THE FIRST PLACE, EVEN WITH THE MARK XIII ELECTRONIC CONTROL PANEL--WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN THAT THE SPACESHIP WILL BE ABLE TO "FIND" EARTH AGAIN, WHEN YOU COME BACK FROM THE OUTER COSMIC REGIONS!
AND WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT... IN SPITE OF THE FANTASTIC SPEED YOU'LL BE TRAVELLING, YOU'LL STILL BE GONE 400 YEARS! THE "DEEP FREEZE" YOU'LL BE IN, WILL KEEP YOU THE SAME AGE FOR THAT LENGTH OF TIME... BUT WHEN YOU COME BACK, EVERYONE YOU KNEW AND LOVED WILL LONG SINCE HAVE DIED!

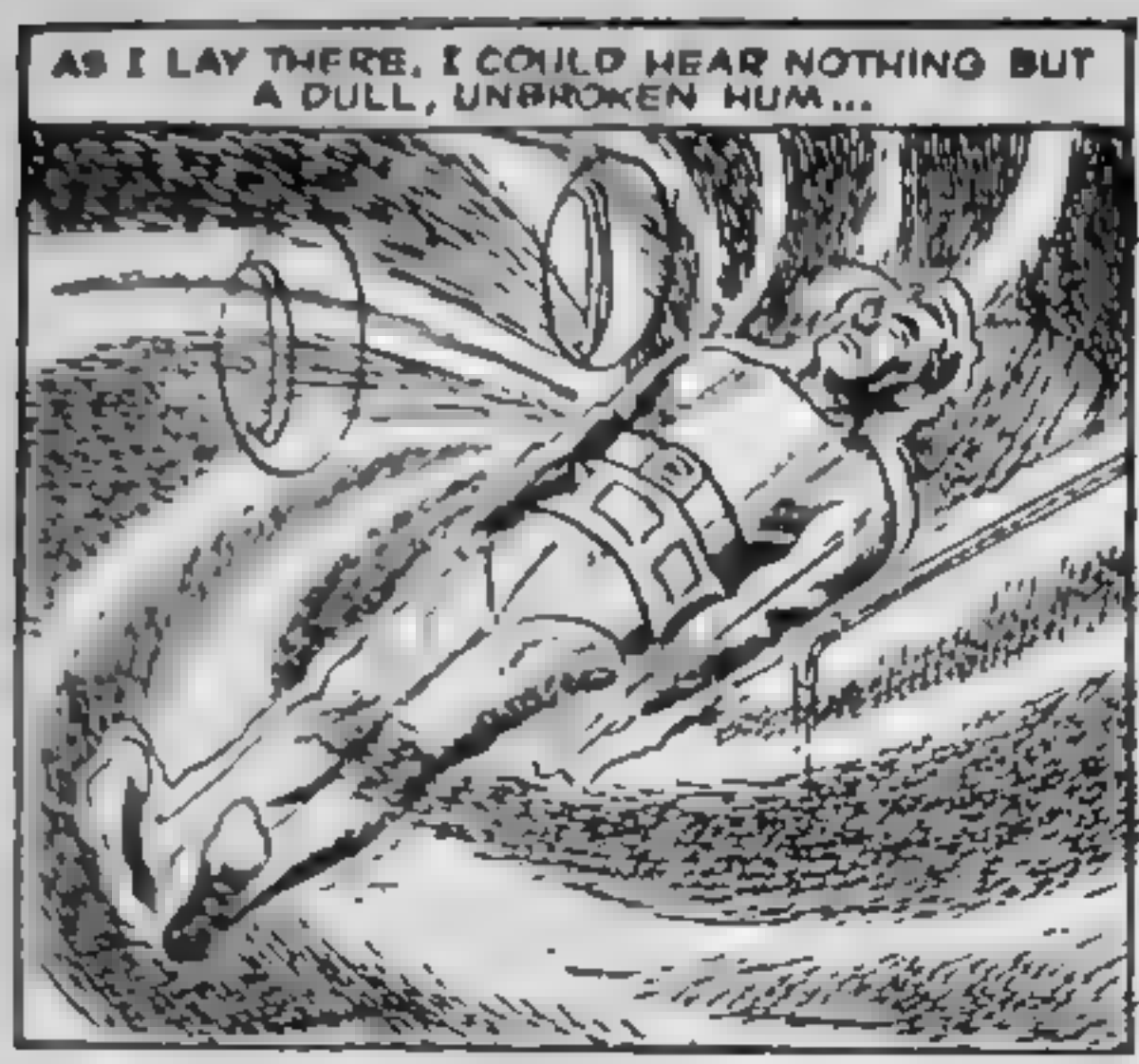
THAT'S OKAY! I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES ON GETTING BACK TO EARTH--AND AS FOR THOSE I "KNOW AND LOVE", THERE'S ONLY MY WIFE MARTHA-- AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF HER NAGGING TO LAST ME 800 YEARS!

VERY WELL THEN, YOU SEEM TO BE CERTAIN! WHEN WILL YOU BE READY TO LEAVE?
I'M READY NOW! LET'S GET ON WITH IT!


THE SHIP WAS MOVED ON TO THE RUNWAY...
I NEVER THOUGHT ANYONE WOULD DO IT!
YEAH! THAT GUY MUST BE A COMPLETE FOOL!
I'LL BE FAMOUS ...MORE FAMOUS THAN ANY OTHER MAN IN HISTORY!

THE PROCEDURE FOR RETURNING WAS EXPLAINED TO ME...THEN I CLIMBED INTO THE SHIP...AND INTO THE "DEEP FREEZE"...
KIDS WILL BE READING ABOUT ME IN THEIR TEXTBOOKS!

AS I LAY DOWN AND LOOKED OUT AT THE HANGER, I SAW MARTHA, TEARS STREAMING DOWN HER CHEEKS! SHE HAD COME FOR A LAST LOOK!
GOOD OLD MARTHA-- A NAGGER TO THE END!

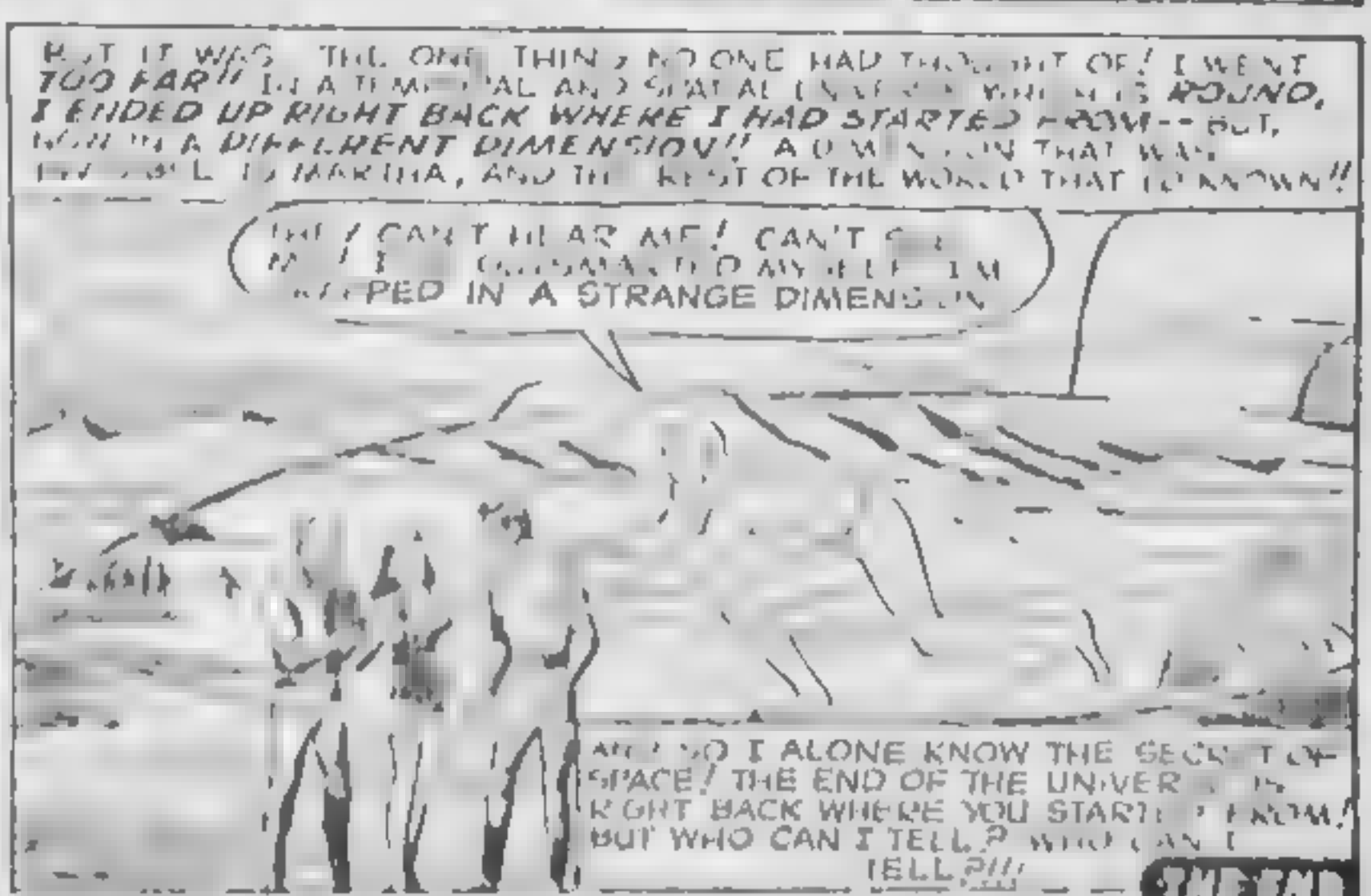

AS I LAY THERE, I COULD HEAR NOTHING BUT A DULL, UNBROKEN HUM...

THEN A VAPOR OOZED OUT THROUGH UNSEEN METALLIC PORES, A SOFT, DARK, VELVET VAPOR...

SLOWLY, I FELT CONSCIOUSNESS--AWARENESS, BEING DRAINED FROM ME...MY MUSCLES SOFTENED... WEAKENED... I WENT DOWN... DOWN...AND BACK INTO A WARM, DEEP SLEEP...
A SLEEP THAT LASTED UNTIL I REACHED THE END OF ETERNITY! MY LAST THOUGHT WAS, WHEN I AWOKE I WOULD BE THE FIRST HUMAN BEING TO KNOW WHAT EXISTED AT THE FURTHEST REACHES OF SPACE!!

THEN, GRADUALLY, I FELT AN ACHE--A SLIGHT PAIN, AS LIFE BEGAN TO WELL WITHIN ME...FROM BOTTOMLESS DEPTHS CONSCIOUSNESS AND AWARENESS ISSUED FORTH...I AGAIN WAS ALIVE... I AWAKENED!!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?

I LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW... AND THEN I SAW IT! I SAW WHAT HAPPENED!
GOOD GRIEF! OH, NO! NO!!


BUT IT WAS THE ONE THING NO ONE HAD THOUGHT OF! I WENT TOO FAR!! IN A TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL [illegible] WHICH IS ROUND, I ENDED UP RIGHT BACK WHERE I HAD STARTED FROM--BUT, NOW IN A DIFFERENT DIMENSION!! A DIMENSION THAT WAS [illegible] TO MARTIA, AND THE REST OF THE WORLD THAT IS KNOWN!!
HEY! CAN'T HEAR ME! CAN'T [illegible] I [illegible] TRAPPED IN A STRANGE DIMENSION
AND SO I ALONE KNOW THE SECRET OF SPACE! THE END OF THE UNIVERSE IS RIGHT BACK WHERE YOU STARTED FROM! BUT WHO CAN I TELL? WHO CAN I TELL?!!
THE END

CORPORAL DYNAMO, U.S.A.

A SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION THREATENS THE U.S. ARMY FROM WITHIN. ONE MAN STANDS BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE MINIONS OF the SECRET PEOPLE'S INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORATE FOR EXTRA-LEGAL REVENUE

AT *THUNDER* HEADQUARTERS, A BEEHIVE OF TOP SECRET ACTIVITY, WE FIND LEN BROWN...

I'VE GOT ANOTHER LIFE OR DEATH ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU, I'M AFRAID!
WHEW! THAT'S A RELIEF!
YES, SIR!

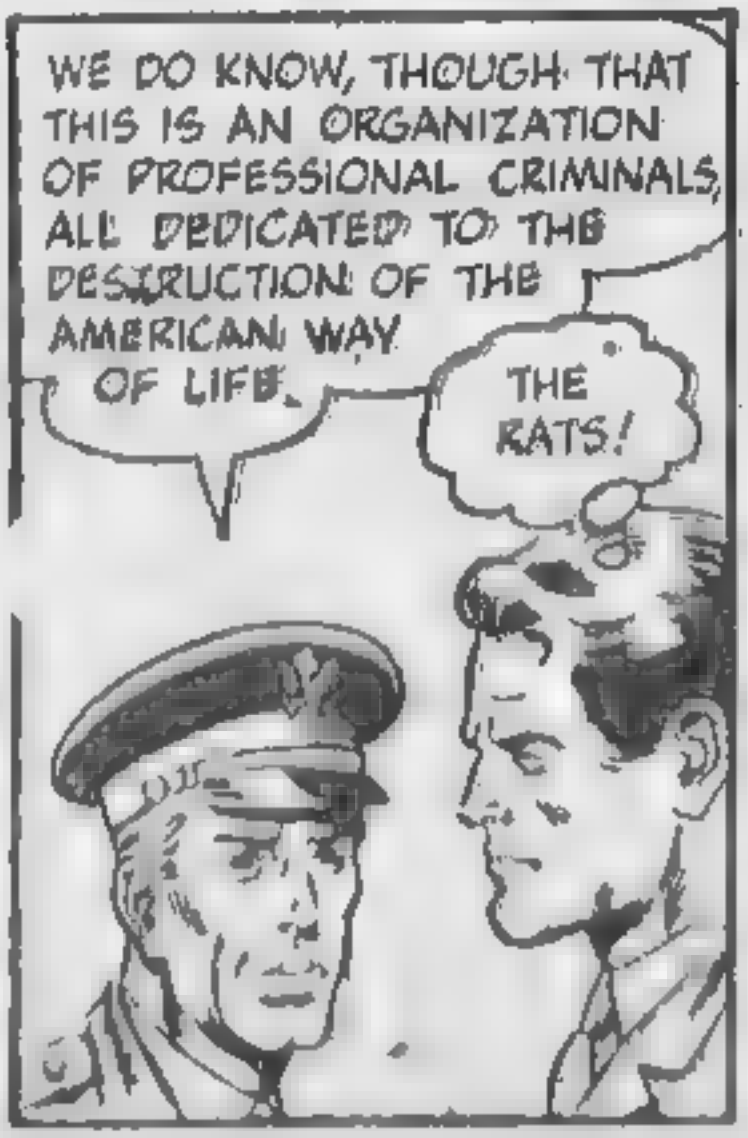
YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN THE ARMY, BROWN!
WHAT? AGAIN? I'VE SERVED A HITCH ALREADY...

IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY... COLONEL MASTERS WILL EXPLAIN...
HOW DO YOU DO, MR. BROWN?

...COLONEL!
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT. WELL, THE FACT IS...

...A SUBVERSIVE GROUP—KNOWN AS "SPIDER" HAS INFILTRATED FORT KEENE, THE ARMY ORDINANCE CENTER. THEY'RE STEALING WEAPONS FOR THE USE OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS!

WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT SPIDER. THOSE MEMBERS WE HAVE CAPTURED REFUSE TO TALK.


WE DO KNOW, THOUGH THAT THIS IS AN ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL CRIMINALS, ALL DEDICATED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.
THE RATS!

SEVERAL OF OUR AGENTS HAVE BEEN KILLED TRYING TO COMBAT SPIDER, SO ARMY INTELLIGENCE IS REQUESTING THUNDER'S HELP. THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN.

YOU'LL BE RESTORED TO YOUR OLD RANK OF CORPORAL...TO GIVE YOU MORE FREEDOM, THOUGH ORDINARILY YOU'D FORFEIT IT AFTER BEING OUT 90 DAYS...

YOU'LL HAVE TO UNDERGO A REFRESHER COURSE IN BASIC TRAINING AT FORT KEENE... STARTING TOMORROW!

OKAY, BROWN...GOOD LUCK! ...AND REMEMBER, IF YOU GET ON PERMANENT K.P. WE DON'T KNOW YOU! HA, HA!
WHAT'S FUNNY ABOUT K.P.?

BACK IN THE ARMY AGAIN! THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...OF ACHING FEET!

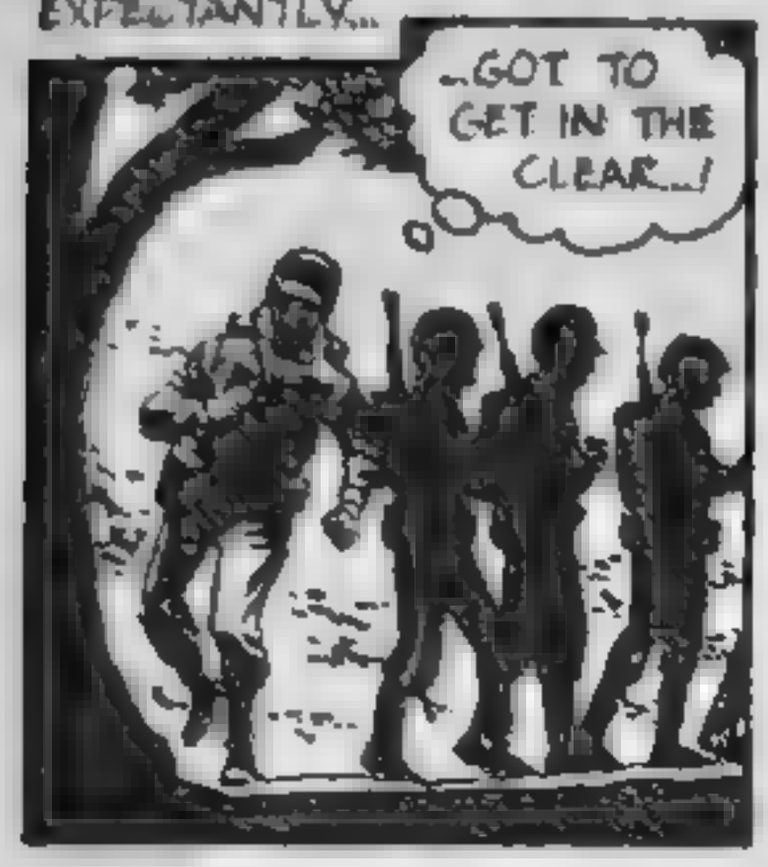
BOY, THIS ARMY! THEY DRAG A GUY OUT OF A HIGH PAYIN' JOB TO RISK HIS NECK...FOR WHAT?! A LOTTA FAT-BACK BIG-WIGS!
LISTEN, GRISWELL...

IF I EVER HEAR YOU INSULT THIS ARMY OF AMERICA AGAIN, IT SHALL BE MY PLEASURE TO HAND YOU A FACE FULL OF KNUCKLES!
OH YEAH?!

YOU'N WHO ELSE, MERRIWELL.. YOU FLAG-WAVING PLONK!
ALRIGHT, YOU TWO.. BREAK IT UP, BEFORE SARGE SEES YOU!

I'D BETTER WATCH THAT GRISWELL...HE'S A SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING ONE, FOR SURE! IF THERE WERE MORE BOYS LIKE MERRIWELL, THE COUNTRY WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!

AS THEY NEAR THE COMBAT COURSE, WHERE LIVE AMMO IS FIRED FROM FIXED MOUNTS AND PLANTED CHARGES EXPLODE, ONE MAN HANGS BACK, EXPECTANTLY...



BUT ONE MAN IS NOT FOOLED...

AT THE INFIRMARY...

THAT NIGHT...

AS DYNAMO TURNS ON HIS. BELT, THE FLASH REVEALS THE FACE OF...

STARTLED, MERRIWELL BACKS UP AND RUNS...

PEERING THROUGH THE WINDOW BROWN SEES...

BUT BEFORE BROWN CAN REACTIVATE THE BELT, A SPIDER SENTRY DISCOVERS HIM...

SHORTLY, WHEN BROWN AWAKENS, HE FINDS HIMSELF CHAINED TO SOME AMMUNITION BOXES...

HA! GREETINGS, *THUNDER* AGENT! YOU SEE, BEING AN OFFICER, I CAN ARRANGE FOR THE SENTRIES TO BE MEMBERS OF MY ORGANIZATION TO INSURE PRIVACY ON THE NIGHTS WHEN WE HAVE OUR LITTLE GET-TOGETHER!

EXPLOSIV

EX

AT DAWN OUR GREATEST COUP TAKES PLACE...IT WOULD HARDLY DO FOR YOU TO INTERFERE. A TRUCK CONVOY IS COMING TO LOAD ALL THE CAMP'S SECRET WEAPONS ON A FOREIGN SHIP...

I SUPPOSE THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS ARE GOING TO STAND BY AND TWIDDLE THEIR THUMBS WHILE YOU DO IT?!

HA HA! NO...

...THEY'LL BE DEAD! I'VE PLANTED MY MEN IN THE KITCHEN. AT BREAKFAST TOMORROW, THE WHOLE CAMP GETS A FAST-ACTING POISON...EXCEPT *MY* MEN.

YOU'LL NEVER...

"GET AWAY WITH IT?!" I THINK WE WILL! THERE IS NO GOOD, NO EVIL, ONLY STRENGTH AND CUNNING, AND WE HAVE THOSE! HA HA!

FOO TO YOU AND YOUR BUNK PHILOSOPHY!

JUST BE GRATEFUL WE'RE KEEPING YOU ALIVE... AS A HOSTAGE! GOOD NIGHT, MR. BROWN... SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!

YOU DIRTY, ROTTEN...

THE TENSE HOURS PASS, SLOWLY. THEN...

I'VE MANAGED TO GET ONE HAND ON THE BELT...I CAN ACTIVATE IT, BUT IT'LL PROBABLY SET OFF ALL THIS AMMO AND KILL ME!

THERE GOES REVEILLE! I'LL HAVE TO RISK IT... *NOW!*

THE SPIDER AGENTS, EXPECTING A QUIET CAMP OF THE DEAD, ARE UNPREPARED FOR THE ENSUING BRAWL...

I SEE YOU'RE DOING ALL RIGHT, GRISWELL!
HECK, DYNAMO! I MAY BE A GRIPER, BUT I'M NO TRAITOR!

SOME SPIDER MEMBERS... GETTING AWAY IN THE TRUCK!

THOSE CANNON SHELLS...

...SHOULD STOP THEM...

...FOR GOOD!
WHOOM!

SEEMS TO ME THAT SOME ONE'S STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR... AND THERE HE GOES! THAT SACKHEADED LEADER!

HE'S TRYING TO STEAL A TANK! HEY, YOU! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT'S U.S. GOVERNMENT PROPERTY?!
SO AM I, COME TO THINK OF IT!

LATER, AFTER THE ***SPIDER*** AGENTS HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP...

COMPANION
COMICS IN
THIS SERIES

AVAILABLE MONTHLY

★
SUSPENSE
★
SINISTER TALES
★
CREEPY WORLDS
★
SECRETS OF THE UNKNOWN
★
UNCANNY TALES
★
ASTOUNDING STORIES
★
OUT OF THIS WORLD
★
WEIRD PLANETS

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW